

Young announces deal following new talks in London and Brussels

Bae will buy Rover after 'clarification'

By Sheila Gann, Daniel Ward, John Bell and Michael Dynes

The way was finally cleared last night for British Aerospace to take over the Rover Group under the broad cash terms previously agreed between the Government and the EEC.

Lord Young of Gifford, the Trade and Industry Secretary, came to the House of Lords to announce that BAE had now agreed to the EEC terms for taking over the motor company.

He told the Lords: "Nothing has changed between yesterday and today. The only change is that BAE has clarified the position over the terms of the takeover."

According to British Aerospace, the clarification has removed the threat that it might have to repay the £547

million Government aid package if the Rover corporate plan was altered in the next five years.

BAE says that this "condition" was revealed only at midday on Tuesday but Brussels is equally insistent that nothing has changed.

The agreement thrashed out between the Government and the European Commission, gives British Aerospace more flexibility to vary the Rover plan in the light of existing business conditions.

Professor Roland Smith and Sir Raymond Lygo, chairman and chief executive of

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British Aerospace, regarded the strings attached to the original agreement as far too tight to be imposed on a public company and asked for more time to consider the implications.

Watched by Professor Smith and Rover chairman Mr Graham Day, Lord Young insisted in the Lords that there was now no problems standing in the way of the takeover.

Looking greatly relieved he announced: "I should make clear that the points of difficulty for BAE were not related to the basic financial framework of the deal which was acceptable in principle to BAE and which has not changed since yesterday. The issue was the commercial flexibility available to BAE in complying with the Commission's decision."

"I am however glad to report that talks with the Commission this morning have clarified the conditions in terms satisfactory to the BAE board."

The version of the statement disclosed to *The Times* by one of Lord Young's officials was marked at the top "Third Draft", underlining the hard day of manoeuvring behind the scenes between the Trade and Industry Secretary and the board of BAE.

In his Lords statement, repeated later in the Commons by Mr Kenneth Clarke, his deputy, Lord Young set out in more detail the terms worked out between the Government and EC commissioner Mr Peter Sutherland.

Lord Young said: "Under

the revised arrangements it has been agreed that some residual items of trading debt should remain on the balance sheet, the revised terms also take account of the continuing improvement in Rover group's financial performance since the talks with BAE were launched."

He re-affirmed that BAE will still pay £150 million for the Government's shareholding in Rover Group and that the Government's cash injection into Rover will be cut from £800-million to £547-million as agreed with the EEC.

He described the make-up of the £547 million injection as "£469 million in recognition of historic debt" and £78 million to support part of Rover Group's investment programme in the assisted areas.

Lord Young added: "In addition we have agreed material changes to the tax provisions of the March agreement. There has been no change in the provision that only £500 million of Rover's existing trading losses will be available after it has been acquired by BAE."

"But we have agreed to remove two other tax restrictions which were in the earlier agreement."

Lord Young said the removal of these restrictions would give BAE the same freedom as any other company under tax law to utilise some £200-million of the motor company's capital losses and up to £300-million of disclaimed capital allowances.

Lord Young said estimating the value of these tax benefits is a matter for BAE but they would obviously be very significant.

Lord Young praised Mr Day and his Rover team for their work in preparing the 18 businesses in the group for private ownership over the past two years.

"I am certain the return of the Rover group to the private sector will prove to be in the best interest of the company, its employees and dealers as well as the many thousands of others in their supplying industries whose livelihoods depend on the health of Rover Group."

The deal also means that, subject only to approval at an



Professor Roland Smith (left), BAE chairman, Lord Young, Industry Secretary, and Mr Graham Day, Rover chairman

Cowdrey to captain England

Christopher Cowdrey, aged 30, who has led Kent to the top of the county championship this season, will captain England for the first time in the Headingley Test match against the West Indies, starting next Thursday. Cowdrey, who has been appointed for the two remaining Tests, is a grandson of Peter May, chairman of the selectors.

His father, Colin, led England in 26 of his record 114

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appearances. Freddie and George Mann are the only other father and son to have captained England.

Cowdrey, who has played for his country five times, will be England's third captain of the season, succeeding Mike Gatting and John Emburey, both of Middlesex.

Emburey led the side to defeat in the second and third Tests.

The last time England had three captains in a series was in 1966, also against West Indies, when Cowdrey senior was one of those whose services were dispensed with.

Government may block SAS court appearances

By Michael Evans and Nicholas Wood

The Government may prevent the SAS men involved in the Gibraltar shooting from appearing as witnesses at the inquest in September, even if the soldiers decide to go.

Whitehall sources say that Mrs Thatcher and other senior ministers are seriously concerned about their appearance under the conditions set by the Gibraltar coroner, Mr Felix Pizzarello, even though the Government wants the soldiers' side of the story told.

The sources emphasized yesterday that, despite reports to the contrary, the SAS had still not made up their minds. The seven men are still taking advice and their decision is expected to be conveyed to the Government next week. Apart from their lawyer, Mr Michael Hucker QC, who has advised them about the effect their appearance or absence would have on the jury and coroner, the SAS men have held discussions with the Director of Special Forces, a veteran SAS officer with long experience of operations in Northern Ireland, and the commanding officer of 22nd SAS Regiment.

One option suggested was the possibility of sending some, though not all, of the

seven to the inquest. However this is likely to be rejected. The coroner has made it clear that he wants all the soldiers involved in the shooting to appear at the inquest.

It is understood that four of the SAS team were involved in firing their weapons, two at the shooting of Mairiad Farrell and Daniel McCann and two at the killing of Sean Savage, who had broken away from his companions to go down a side road. A fifth member of the SAS team was also present acting as operational commander.

Sources confirmed yesterday that the rules of engagement given to the SAS men for the Gibraltar operation which had been approved by Mrs Thatcher, Mr Younger and Sir Geoffrey Howe, will be made available to the coroner. The outline of the intelligence briefing given to the SAS before the shooting will also be revealed.

Ministers want the seven soldiers involved in the March counter-terrorist operation to attend the hearing because they believe they have an irrefutable case which will clear their names and the British Government.

Worse flights chaos to come

By Staff Reporters

The likelihood of continuing massive delays for air travellers increased yesterday as Italian air traffic controllers reduced drastically the numbers of aircraft permitted in their air space and French air traffic controllers threatened further action on Monday.

As thousands of Britons remained stranded at airports across the country for up to 48 hours because of action by Greek air traffic controllers, Mrs Thatcher pledged to examine the potential for greater co-operation between British controllers and their counterparts in the rest of the European Community.

Mrs Thatcher also said British air traffic authorities had

Increasing misery... 3

been seeking to install the "very latest computer equipment" which should be "sufficient and able to cope with the increased air traffic".

An alternative solution was proposed by a number of MEPs who suggested a single air traffic control system was needed to handle the growing numbers of aircraft flying to Continental destinations.

British air traffic controllers yesterday blamed their Greek counterparts for the continuing problems and predicted a weekend of chaos and misery which would stretch the tolerance of the system to its utmost and the patience of air travellers to its limit.

"We are getting no help at all from the Greeks", one official said.

The lengthy delay in clearing the backlog of flights to Greece was compounded by a lack of air space "slots" available - fewer than a quarter of the numbers required.

"Added to the problem is that aircraft rostered for flights to Greece were needed for follow-on trips to Spanish and other European destinations", an airport spokesman said. "Operators were obviously unhappy at the prospect of having a knock-on effect."

Aircraft needed for other services cannot be left to wait indefinitely in the hope of getting away on a Greek flight. A further problem has been that crews cannot be permitted to remain on duty as an "out of time" limit governs the length of their shifts, even when not flying.

"Almost anything European is subject to delays because aircraft get swapped around," the spokesman said.

The only good news for travellers was that a dispute involving Iberia, the Spanish airline, which would have disrupted flights next week, was resolved yesterday.

WIN £122,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

There were no winners of the daily prize yesterday, so the Portfolio Accumulator now stands at £122,000.

Prices: page 25

IN PART 2

Jobless at lowest since 1981

By David Smith

Faster growth in manufacturing output helped push unemployment down for the 23rd successive month in June. Unemployment has now fallen by more than a quarter since mid-1986.

The raw total dropped by 86,085 to 2,340,789 last month. The adjusted total fell by 38,900 to 2,375 million, its lowest for seven years.

Fears that industrial output was slowing have eased. The latest data showed manufacturing output rising at 6 per cent a year, up from 4.5 per cent two months ago.

City worries over inflation were partly eased by the latest earnings data, showing average growth at 8.5 per cent. But today's retail price figures are expected to show a rise in the inflation rate.

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Ballesteros round in 67

Seve Ballesteros, of Spain, scored a 67 to lead the field on a windy first day of the Open golf championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

Ballesteros, who won the first of his two Open titles on the same course in 1979, leads by two strokes.

Pages 37 and 38

Degree results

Degrees from the University of Strathclyde will be published tomorrow. Results from the universities of Newcastle and Lancaster appear today.

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Labour's gloomy forecast

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock is today likely to face the start of an inquest into Labour's failure to launch an effective challenge to the Government in the Kensington by-election.

Labour campaign workers were last night in a gloomy mood because of a low turnout which is almost certain to mean bad news for Mr Kinnock, who is on a tour of southern African states.

Labour MPs were drafted into the constituency to try to persuade the party's traditional voters to go to the polls but, barring miracles, they were heading for a depressing defeat.

Conservative workers predicted that their strength in south Kensington would ensure that Mr Dudley Fishburn, the Tory candidate, would take the seat, albeit with a reduced majority.

Parkinson orders rig safety inquiry

An urgent inquiry into safety on North Sea oil rigs was announced last night by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary.

One of his own safety officials, Mr James Petrie, is to carry out a thorough technical examination of offshore rigs to enable immediate action to be taken to improve safety and allay the fears of oil rig workers.

Mr Petrie, the Energy Department's Director of Safety, was already considering an overhaul of safety regulations - some of them 20 years out of date - when disaster struck the Piper Alpha platform on July 6.

But with some oil rig workers refusing to go back to the platforms, Mr Parkinson announced in a Commons written reply that he was ordering another inquiry which would deal with immediate safety aspects and pinpoint what action needed to be taken.

The main public inquiry will be under the chairman-

ship of the Scottish High Court Judge, Lord Cullen, in Aberdeen and will look at all aspects of the disaster in which 166 men died.

Mr Parkinson said in reply to Mr Menzies Campbell, the SLD MP for North East Fife, the constituency to which the pipeline from Piper Alpha flowed, that he wanted quick answers on safety aspects.

"I am very anxious that if there are any early lessons... from the disaster we should extract them and issue immediate guidance to operators of North Sea installations."

He said the inquiry by Mr Petrie would be in conjunction with the Health and Safety Commission and Mr Petrie would make a report to him and the commission.

"The report of this investigation will be available as evidence to the public inquiry, which will be free to question or supplement it as it wishes," Mr Parkinson said.

Talks to save jobs, page 2

BR plans 180mph link-up to tunnel

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

By the turn of the century it could take only 2½ hours to get from the centre of London to the centre of Paris, and the journey to Brussels would be even quicker.

This would flow from the opening of the Channel tunnel in 1993 and the construction through Kent of a new £1,000 million railway line capable of taking trains at speeds of 180mph, which could take up to 30 minutes off journey times.

British Rail yesterday announced a series of options for the new fast line, but warned that it would be built only when it could be financially justified and this, it thinks, will not be until towards the end of the century, or even later, depending on the rate at which rail traffic through the tunnel develops after 1993.

Eurotunnel, the company which will operate the tunnel, has been campaigning for an increase in the proposed rail

capacity to the tunnel as soon as possible after it opens. It welcomed the publication of British Rail's study, but said the earlier the extra capacity was achieved the better.

Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport, said any scheme would have to be commercially justified, and would need to be agreed by Parliament. He invited reactions from the private sector which has expressed interest in the possibilities of participating in providing new railway infrastructure.

British Rail says a high-speed line could not be built in under eight or 10 years. It has identified three possible routes from London through either Bromley or Sidcup to the tunnel near Folkestone, and will be making more detailed studies. It will also be studying possible sites for an additional terminal in London.

BR plans, page 4

France says 'Bonjour Bonjour' to René and Co

By Alan Hamilton

Not since the Liberation of Paris has there been such celebration at the Café René, and the proprietor thought that it was, quite simply, *tres bon*, particularly as yesterday was Bastille Day. The BBC has finally overcome the French Resistance and sold them the comedy series *Allo Allo*.

Canal Plus, a French commercial channel, has taken all 54 episodes of the series, in spite of the obvious difficulties in translating for its audience a programme which relies heavily for its appeal on English actors playing Frenchmen and Germans using silly accents.

The French have clearly overcome fears that the war is still too sensitive among some viewers to be the subject

of a long-running joke, and that the *double-entendres* which are the script's stock in trade would be lost in translation.

The programmes will be dubbed using the voices of French actors. They will continue to use silly English and silly German, but the French characters will speak in normal French. The most difficult character will be Crabtree, the gendarme who is really a British spy and who tortures his vowels to indicate that, although speaking English, he is supposed to be speaking very bad French.

French dappers will overcome the problem by having an actor say his lines in dreadfully-accented French, in the manner of Mr Edward Heath. René the café proprietor, in real life

the actor Gordon Kaye, said in English yesterday: "Obviously we are delighted that the series has been sold to another country, but I prefer subtitles. I am not a fan of dubbing because I think it takes away from the atmosphere of a programme."

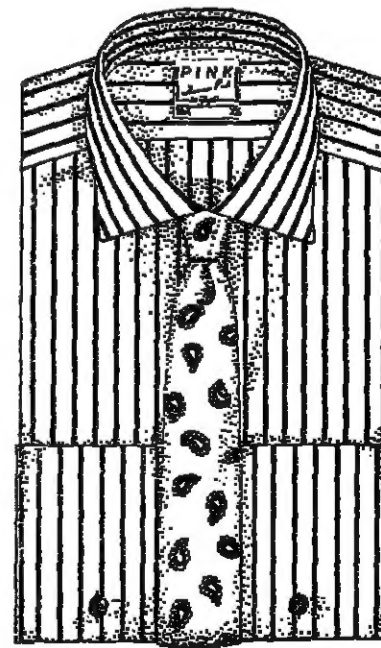
"They are going to have problems because so much of the humour depends on linguistic misunderstanding; it remains to be seen how they cope with it. Still, *c'est magnifique* that they've decided to give it a try."

Viewers in northern France who can pick up BBC transmissions love it, according to Mr Kaye, perhaps because, although there are no real heroes or villains, the French usually keep one step ahead of the Germans.

The BBC announced yesterday that

the series had also been sold to six Canadian television stations, bringing the total overseas sales to 35 countries and well over £1 million. To celebrate, René handed out free wine to his lovely wife Edith with the 'orrible singing voice, played by Carmen Sylvestra, and other stars in the café that is now a permanent set at the BBC's Elstree studio, and where a further 26 episodes are in production.

Sales of BBC programmes abroad in last year now exceed £53 million, with some unlikely triumphs. A Chinese television station in Canton has bought Michael Crawford's *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*, and a Basque language station in Spain has taken *Eastenders*, translating it most confusingly as *Neighbours*.



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 1.00; Yugoslavia 1.00; Zaire 1.00.

Slow clearances of backlog threatens worse delays ahead

'One control system' call

Doctors 'set back' child care

Glasnost arrives in Cambridgeshire



For grand finale, a P63 King Cobra, built in America, given to the Russians, and now owned by an Englishman, performed cartwheels in the sky. Later, the two tanks stood silently side by side in the grey rain. Peace may be poor reading, but war makes rattling good history.

Union urges teacher training reforms

The report's emphasis on the importance of trainees gaining experience under the supervision of experienced teachers places the traditionally militant union in an unlikely alliance with educational right-wingers, among them Sir Rhodes Boyson, the former Tory education minister who has repeatedly made similar calls.

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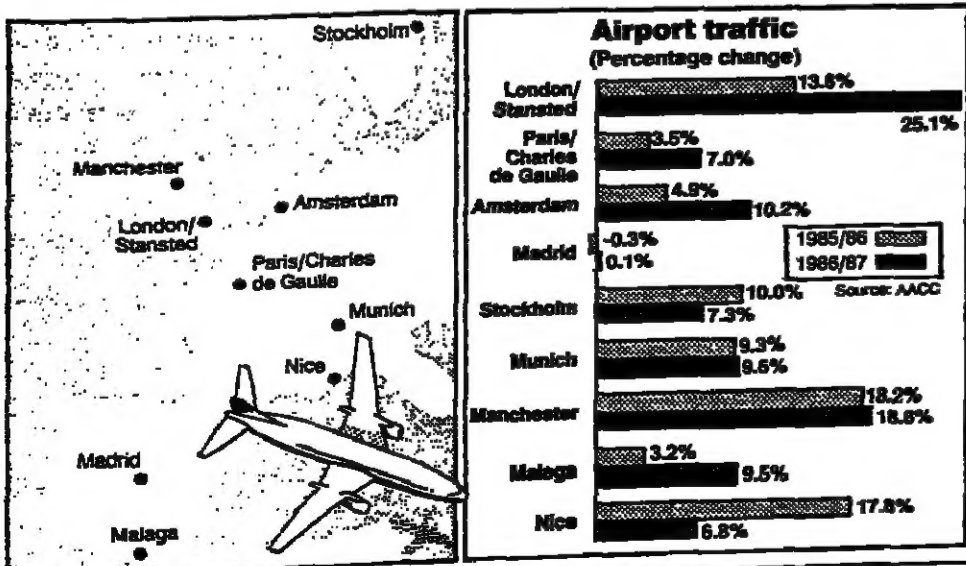
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467-481 Hagley Road, Southwick, Brierley 338 Bath Road, Ames Vale 794 Colham Lane, Gloucester 1; Balfourdown 1, Llanymyne, Westgate Street, Guilford 10-19 Worcester Road, Ipswich
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All roads are defined subject to variations, EA/C.

New curbs sought on 'illegal' gaming

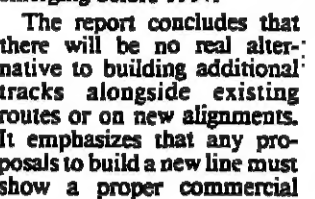
The total drop in casinos in Britain in 1987 increased by 4 per cent over the previous year to £1.67 billion. The increase was accounted for by buoyant figures from provincial casinos where for the second year running there was a substantial increase in the total figure.

The board hopes a Bill may soon be introduced extending its powers.
Report of the Gaming Board for Great Britain 1987/88: Stationery Office (£5.90).



By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail is relying



The report says that it was decided to avoid providing excess capacity which would be required only a few hours each day and for only a few months each year. It was decided to cater for only 80 per cent of the busiest hour.

In comments on methods of building the new route, the report says that extra tracks laid beside existing routes

Channel Tunnel Train Service
(Channel Tunnel External Affairs Manager, General Offices Waterloo Station, London SE1 8SE; £3).

By Roland Budd

*Industrial Relations Review
and Report: 419, IRS 18-20
Highbury Place, London, NS
10P.*

Those two are thought

The options for a new terminal are White City, west London, a below-ground station at King's Cross, and Stratford, east London, where the new platforms would be

British Rail's proposals discard the idea of using St Pancras in central London because it would involve diverting railway services already using it. The most important factor is that the second terminal should have good connections to the north and west of London.

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A. N. Bala-Williams).

Charollies: C W Marwood, Best, top
wool: Wensleydale Mrs A Winters
reserv: Teeswater Mrs A G
Garbutt.

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

That is especially true of burglary, for which official crime statistics show a rise of 100 per cent between 1972

The briefing paper says the average household can expect to be burgled once every 40 years, but the average in inner cities is once every 12 years and, in the areas which are most at risk, once every four years. Elderly people are least

Miss Vivien Stern, the association's director, said that crime statistics were inevitably partial, selective and misleading. An uncritical attitude to recorded crime figures could hinder attempts to tackle crime effectively while increasing fear and distress among the public.

Bulgary, for which official crime statistics show a rise of 100 per cent between 1972 and 1983. Estimates from the

However, fear of crime influences people's lives and

ing to size. Cutlets from a large fish cost about £5.95 a lb and from the smaller fish, £4.45 a lb.

Asda British pork chops are £1.09 a lb, British rolled shoulder of pork, 89p a lb.

Australia can be bought without fear of the dreaded spider and cost from 60p to £1.50 a lb.

ing to size. Cutlets from a large fish cost about £5.95 a lb and from the smaller fish, £4.45 a lb.

Dewhurst - boneless pork
steaks £1.79 a lb, pork spare
rib chops £1.19 a lb,
Sainsbury's beef topside.

courgettes 35-60 a lb, and peas 35-50 a lb are among the best vegetable buys. Salad ingredients, which are plentiful in

Campaign plan to tackle roots of crime in the home

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Government ministers are considering launching a television and press advertising campaign aimed at bringing home to parents their responsibilities for keeping children out of crime.

The controversial proposal is likely to be discussed at the September meeting of the 12-strong Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention.

The campaign would be paid for from the three-year £11.5 million Home Office crime prevention advertising budget.

The first phase, under the slogan "Crime - together we will crack it", is due to finish at the end of this year. A campaign emphasizing the role of the family in curbing crime may be chosen as the next stage.

If adopted, the campaign would mark the further development of the Government's growing interest in measures designed to tackle the roots of criminality.

As *The Times* has disclosed, ministers are already paying close attention to the possibility of injecting an additional moral dimension into the school curriculum and re-

informing courses in parenthood.

The possibility of new moves was signalled yesterday by Mr John Patten, the Minister of State at the Home Office and chairman of the ministerial group.

He said the Government was "considering whether there are other ways in which parents can be encouraged to take their responsibilities more seriously and be more effective in carrying them out."

"This is a difficult area involving questions of personal freedom as well as responsibility, but it is crucial for our efforts to reduce crime and we will continue to pay special attention to it."

Mr Patten coupled his remarks with an appeal to the courts to make parents responsible for the criminal activities of their children.

He suggested that at present judges and magistrates were failing to use their powers to confront parents with the consequences of their children's wrongdoing.

"In 1986, the requirement for courts to order parents to pay their children's fines was used in only 21 per cent of

cases. It is essential that this sanction and the other powers now available are used as effectively as possible."

Whitehall sources added that ministers were surprised to discover that the courts were letting parents off so lightly.

They emphasized, however, that ministers had no powers to intervene directly in the sentencing policy of the courts.

Mr Patten said there were four ways in which the courts could ensure that parents faced their responsibilities and paid a penalty for their children's criminal offences.

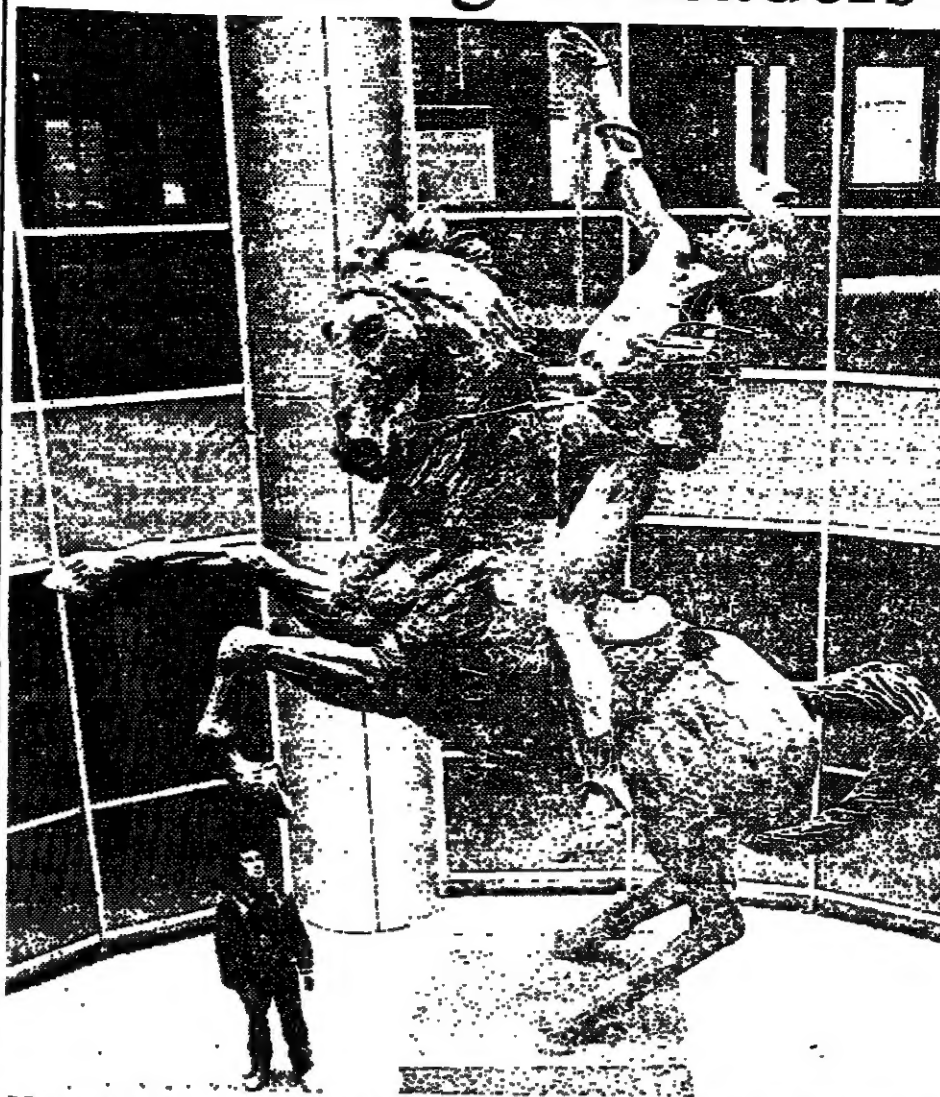
● Parents of children aged 10 to 17 facing criminal charges could be required to attend court and confront the reality of their children's offences and their consequences.

● Courts could order parents to pay fines.

● Courts could force parents to put up undertakings of up to £500 to exercise proper control over their offspring.

● Under civil law, parents guilty of negligence could suffer damages for loss or injury caused by their children.

Honouring Crusaders



Mr Rudy Weller is dwarfed by his 33ft statue of a Crusader in a new office block, Crusader House, in London. The £11.7 million Wimpey block was built on the site of the monastery from which some Crusaders set off nearly 900 years ago (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

Collector pays £1.59m for rare Mercedes

SALEROOM

By Jenny Gilbert

A 1936 two-seat Mercedes-Benz roadster yesterday sold for £1,595,000 — more than £1 million above estimate — at Christie's auction at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu, Hampshire.

The eight-cylinder 500K model, known as the "butcher's banger", had stood for 30 years in a garage in Walsall, West Midlands. It was bought yesterday on behalf of a Swedish financier and car collector, Mr Hans Thunberg.

The 500K Special Roadster first came on to the market in limited numbers in 1933 to replace the celebrated S and SS models, and had a top speed of 100 mph.

The car passed through several hands before being sold to Mr Arthur Lane in 1950, who gave it to his nephew, Mr Arthur Dawson, a butcher. The car was laid up in 1956 and stored until recently in a garage behind Mr Dawson's shop in Walsall, where its condition deteriorated because of the ravages of mice and rust.

An antiques enthusiast, Mr John Price from Walsall bought the car for £150,000 earlier this year and had expected it to fetch £500,000. Yesterday's price was the

third highest paid for a car at an auction and surprised Christie's and vintage car experts. The largest sum paid for a vintage car at auction was £5.5 million for a 1931 Bugatti Royale sports coupe at a Christie's in London last November.

At Sotheby's, a tiny watercolour of Epsom Downs by Constable sold to a London dealer for £77,000 after an estimate of £6,000-£8,000.

Most Constables on the market recently have been drawings — a watercolour is relatively rare.

In the same sale, a quayside scene by Richard Parkes Bonington, estimated at £5,000-£7,000, sold for £52,800, again to a London dealer. A pencil sketch by J M W Turner, however, failed to sell. More paintings and watercolours at Sotheby's saleroom in Chester did very well overall, setting a new auction record of £36,300 for the nineteenth-century British artist, Charles Spenceclay.

BBC guidelines boost sponsorship of arts

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Arts sponsorship received a significant boost yesterday when the BBC announced new guidelines that will permit more generous credits to backers of events such as operas and concerts.

The new rules are likely to encourage more companies, especially insurance firms, banks and City institutions, to pump millions of pounds into the arts. An "appropriate" credit for a sponsor at the beginning and end of an event covered by the BBC will be backed by similar acknowledgements in the *Radio Times*.

In some cases the inclusion of a sponsor's name in the title of the event will be allowed on television or radio, as in

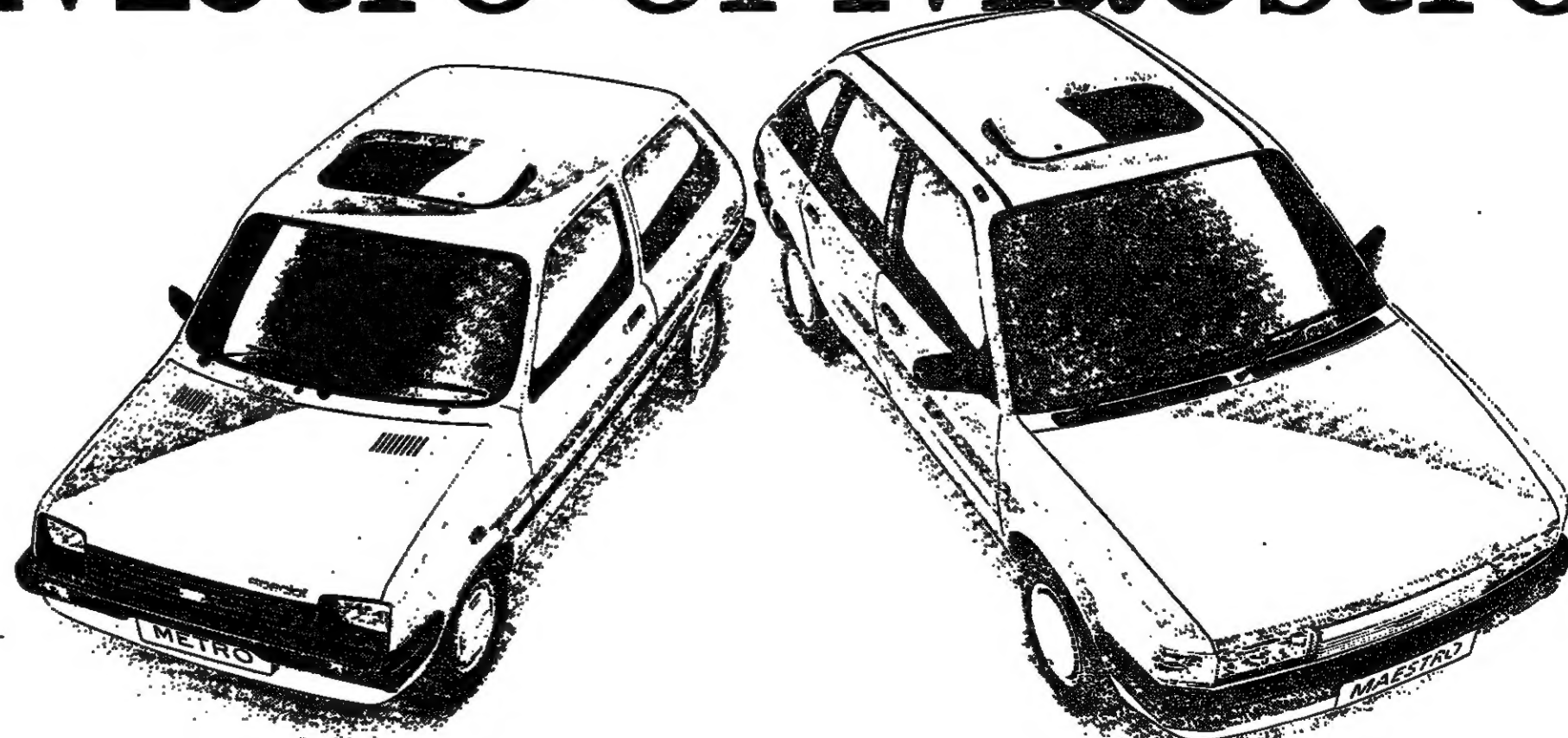
sporting events. The revised guidelines say: "It is for the BBC to decide what title to give the programme which covers such events."

"The BBC's investment in coverage of the arts needs to be protected and the sponsor's name should not take primacy where this can be avoided. However, the BBC seeks to be fair to sponsors."

Miss Patricia Hodgson, head of the BBC's policy and planning unit, who chaired the working party which revised the sponsorship code, said yesterday the guidelines would help to encourage sponsorship money to flow into the arts.

The guidelines are to be made publicly available for the first time.

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Cash Price* (inc. delivery, 12 months' road fund licence)	4950.00	5175.00	6277.00	8279.00
9.3% APR				
Deposit (Min. 20%)	990.00	1035.00	1255.40	1655.80
36 Monthly Payments	125.80	131.60	176.28	240.61
Charge for Credit	548.80	556.23	750.48	961.56
Total Amount Payable	5518.80	5773.20	7667.48	9230.95
7.1% APR				
Deposit (Min. 20%)	1485.00	1553.40	2063.10	2463.70
36 Monthly Payments	106.92	111.85	148.55	176.84
Charge for Credit	361.12	402.00	533.80	647.52
Total Amount Payable	5394.12	5580.00	7140.90	8921.94
5.6% APR				
Deposit (Min. 40%)	1980.00	2071.70	2750.80	3311.60
36 Monthly Payments	88.66	92.79	124.56	149.96
Charge for Credit	257.76	263.64	357.98	431.16
Total Amount Payable	5207.76	5447.64	7244.96	8711.16

MAESTRO	MAESTRO SPECIAL	MAESTRO 1.3 L	MAESTRO 1.6 L	MAESTRO MG 2.0i
Cash Price* (inc. delivery, 12 months' road fund licence)	6250.00	7679.00	8456.00	9936.00
9.3% APR				
Deposit (Min. 20%)	1250.00	1535.80	1611.00	1987.20
36 Monthly Payments	160.45	195.16	204.72	242.53
Charge for Credit	696.80	825.92	875.92	1123.36
Total Amount Payable	6963.80	8511.50	8990.92	11070.29
7.1% APR				
Deposit (Min. 20%)	1875.00	2303.70	2418.50	2960.50
36 Monthly Payments	135.01	172.09	179.50	214.63
Charge for Credit	495.36	596.32	675.90	817.48
Total Amount Payable	6735.76	8279.38	8680.50	10707.45
5.6% APR				
Deposit (Min. 40%)	2500.00	3071.60	3223.00	3974.40
36 Monthly Payments	113.24	139.96	145.90	174.96
Charge for Credit	525.56	629.84	679.49	817.68
Total Amount Payable	6575.30	8071.64	8474.40	10453.68

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West Bank violence leaves lifelong scars on the young

From Ian Murray
Jerusalem

A 12-year-old Jewish boy was yesterday in hospital where doctors were struggling to save the sight in one of his eyes. Two Palestinian teenagers were being nursed at home, recovering from savage wounds to their arms, legs and bodies. They were just three of Wednesday's victims of violence in the Palestinian uprising.

The boy was travelling with his parents to the settlement of Givat Shimon in the West Bank. As they passed the Arab town of Kalkilya, their car was attacked by young Arab stone throwers, who had been pelting any Israeli car, with distinctive yellow plates, all day.

Arab children in the town have been doing this all week, and their school has been closed by the military authorities as a punishment. One of the stones hit the boy in the eye, and his parents rushed

him first to a military camp from where he was taken to hospital.

The story spread rapidly among the cluster of West Bank settlements in the hills behind Kalkilya.

Only last summer, a Jewish mother and her son were burned to death by a petrol bomb thrown into their car from an orange grove just outside the town, and settlers in the area then took the law into their own hands, invading Kalkilya, smashing windows and ripping up trees.

On Wednesday night, furious at the continuing attacks on their cars, the settlers invaded Kalkilya again, smashing the cars of Arabs, with their distinctive blue plates, and chasing everyone indoors. It was not until daybreak yesterday that the Army was able to persuade the settlers to leave before imposing a strict curfew on the town. Emotions among the settlers are continuing to run high and they are

calling on the Army and the Government to do much more to ensure the roads are safe.

The two Palestinian teenagers were working in their family's iron workshop in al-Ram, just north of Jerusalem, at noon on Wednesday when a patrol of paratroopers came down the street ordering all the shops to close.

One of the boys was hunched over a screaming metal saw and heard nothing. He says that the next thing he knew a paratrooper had spun him round and slapped him very hard across the face. The boy says he called out in Hebrew: "Don't hit me." Then the trouble really began. He said he was thrown to the floor, kicked and hit with the butt of rifles.

His father said he tried to intervene but was flung to the ground. His cousin then tried to pull the soldiers off, and in turn says he was thrown to the ground

and kicked and beaten. Both say that they were then dragged outside the shop by the hair and put over a low wall with their hands tightly tied behind their backs with plastic bindings. There they say they were repeatedly kicked and beaten.

According to the father, one of the paratroopers took off his red beret and waved it in his son's face, shouting: "Do you know what this is? It is the badge of a trained killer." He used the beret to slap the boy over the head.

Then two Jeeps and a truck came up with some 15 soldiers. According to the many neighbours who witnessed the scene, the boys were seen being pulled by their hair into the truck, where they were stretched out on the floor, and paratroopers on the benches alongside stood on them and pummelled them with their boots. Several of the women in the street watched the truck drive slowly back and

forth outside the shop, when they say they saw the soldiers light cigarettes and stub them out on the boys' arms. Both of them have burn blisters consistent with this story.

After about half an hour, they say that they were driven out of town to a lonely spot on the road above the village of Jaba. Again they say they were pulled out of the truck by their hair. One boy says that his foot was placed against a rock and a paratrooper threw another rock against his ankle, but he just managed to jerk his leg out of the way. There are, nevertheless, heavy scratch marks around his swollen ankle which show he was injured there by the rock. They say they were then dragged across the field to an abandoned, half-built house. Its cellar is low and dark and littered with planks, which are studded with nails. There are several large cut building stones, and a number of the planks are now broken

and spotted with blood. One large stone, weighing at least 20lb, is covered with dark brown stains.

One boy said that his arm was held against this rock while he was hit with another in what he thought was an attempt to break his bones. Both boys say they were then hit with planks until at least three of them splintered. They both say that they heard the small bones break in their hands as they screamed in pain. After 10 minutes or so, they say a soldier tipped a metal bucket, which appears to have been used as a toilet by workmen, over their bruised heads and then told them to go home.

Only one could stand and he staggered out, hands still tied behind his back, and managed to find a Bedouin who freed them and took them to their father and then they went on to hospital.

All three boys will be scarred for life. They will not find it easy to live in peace.

Poland's dissenters keep low profile in Gorbachov debate

From Richard Bassett, Warsaw

In a disappointing exercise in the limitations of *glasnost*, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov met Polish "intellectuals" on the fourth day of his six-day visit to Poland.

Inside the magnificent reconstructed marble walls of Warsaw's Wawel Castle, Mr Gorbachov attended a two-hour debate, which was the first public confrontation between the architect of *perestroika* and East European intellectuals.

But hopes that he would respond to sensitive questioning were disappointed. Many of the intellectuals present were pro-communist and even party members.

It was clear from the way in which searching issues such as the massacre of Polish officers at Katyn were not even indirectly alluded to that a list of proscribed subjects had been presented to the 248 professors, actors and writers present. Instead of a bracing and incisive debate, a soporific listlessness prevailed.

Even those who might have been expected to pursue a rigorous line of questioning seemed to pull their punches. Only Mr Marcin Krol, editor of the until recently underground magazine, *Res-publica*, tested the Soviet leader's powers of evasion by asking him a question about the so-called Brezhnev doctrine under which the Soviet Union had extinguished the Prague Spring of 1968.

Asked what his views were of this doctrine — the right to

intervene in any East European country if the cause of socialism is threatened — and whether it had any relevance to the present new era of *glasnost*, Mr Gorbachov only gave a long, rambling account of the need for greater understanding between the working class and socialist intellectuals. It was a salutary reminder that, for all the fuss made of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, unfettered discussion in public of many issues is still impossible.

The meeting reinforced the mood of stage management which has pervaded Mr Gorbachov's tour of Poland. While his travels have been free any confrontations with the opposition, it has been impossible for Mr Gorbachov to talk to anyone with a remotely critical view of the present Government in Poland or of communism in general.

As well as meeting intellectuals, Mr Gorbachov also held long talks with General Jaruzelski at a special plenary meeting of the Central Committee. Subsequent to this, a joint communiqué was issued in which both the Polish and Soviet authorities expressed their belief that the meeting was an "historic moment in the history of Polish-Soviet relations".

Later at a special press briefing, the Soviet spokesman, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, said that Polish-Soviet relations had never been better at any time in their

history than they were today. The Soviet leader has been particularly impressed by "the warmth of his reception from the Polish people".

Today Mr Gorbachov will take a day off from touring Poland to attend a Warsaw Pact summit in the Polish capital. The meeting of East bloc leaders is likely to pose a more bracing environment for Mr Gorbachov than his travels of the last few days.

● MOSCOW: Police briefly detained the dissident journalist, Sergei Grigoryants, and 14 other demonstrators yesterday after they unfurled the national flag of Latvia and protest banners near the Kremlin (AP reports). Most of them, including Mr Grigoryants, were reportedly released after five hours.

"We have the right to speak out. That is what democracy is," a Latvian demonstrator told a police officer who warned the group to disperse.

The man then unfurled Latvia's red-and-white flag, a symbol of the brief period when the Baltic nation was free of Soviet rule. A plainclothes officer immediately ripped the flag away and dragged the man to a bus. Other officers arrested the rest of the demonstrators on the steps of the Lenin Library.

Mr Grigoryants, whom Mr Gorbachov has condemned as a "parasite", eluded officers for a few minutes. But after handing reporters a statement about the protest, he too was arrested.

Signs of split among Afghan rebels over interim government



A wounded Afghan rebel being treated with a drip by one of his comrades after a battle with government forces on the Jallalabad road east of Kabul. Photograph: David Stewart-Smith

Mujahidin leader leaves door open

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

Pir Ahmad Gailani, the chairman of the seven-group alliance of Afghan Mujahidin, yesterday expressed his readiness to consider an interim Afghan government of peace and reconstruction as proposed last week by Senator Diego Cordovez, the UN negotiator.

However, Mr Gailani, who is regarded as one of the moderate resistance leaders, prefaced this comment at a news conference by repeating that the majority of the alliance were not prepared to consider the Cordovez plan.

Mr Gailani, speaking with obvious caution, said: "We have kept the doors open to negotiations." That was his view, and that of his party, the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

He gave no indication that he might go it alone, or with other alliance parties if they joined him, in pursuing with Senator Cordovez the idea of a neutral but transitional government in Kabul.

Several times he expressed readiness for talks on an interim government with those who enjoy popular support in Afghanistan. But he rejected outright any talks with President Najibullah or the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Mr Gailani said he feared that fighting in Afghanistan would intensify and that many innocent and non-partisan Afghans might be caught in the cross-fire.

He said that on Moscow's initiative a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross had met him on Wednesday, proposing di-

rect contact between the Soviet Union and the alliance on "humanitarian issues" relating to Russian prisoners of war held by the Mujahidin. He said the alliance was ready to hold such talks.

The Soviet Union claims 312 of its troops are missing. Some are held prisoner by the Mujahidin while others are reported now to be in the US and West Germany.

Mr Gailani said the pace of Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan was slow and that the Russians are still present in some of those areas from which they were reportedly withdrawn.

Meanwhile, several statements from individual Afghan resistance parties have appeared condemning Senator Cordovez for what they described as his hostile attitude towards the Mujahidin.

● Peace formula: The procedures proposed by Senator Cordovez towards peace in Afghanistan include: a ceasefire, or as he terms it "a cooling-off period", from September 1 and the creation of a neutral government, which would hold power from that date on an interim basis.

The second part of the plan foresees the holding of a *Loya Jirga*, a traditional Afghan tribal assembly, by March 1, 1989 — two weeks after the scheduled withdrawal of the last Soviet soldier — and which would in turn, within another two weeks, form a permanent government.

It is the first time the UN has involved itself in plans for internal peace and the establishment of an Afghan Government.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Roh veto thwarts scandal inquiry

Seoul (Reuters) — President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea yesterday vetoed opposition Bills that would have obliged his predecessor, President Chun Doo Hwan, to answer in Parliament for alleged abuses during his rule, a presidential spokesman said. Despite fears of a political crisis, Mr Roh accepted a Cabinet recommendation that the Bills be returned to Parliament for revision before becoming law.

The Government regards the Bills as unconstitutional. One Bill passed last week by the opposition-controlled Parliament, in the face of strong government resistance, sought to prevent the former President from evading parliamentary scrutiny. It would have provided for his detention, should he ignore a subpoena. Mr Chun and his relatives are accused of involvement in a string of multimillion-dollar corruption scandals.

Mr Roh said the Bills encroached upon the judiciary's constitutional rights regarding detention and violated the main democratic principle of the will of the majority.

Salinas scrapes home

Mexico City (Reuters) — An unexpected breakthrough by opposition parties in Mexico's elections last week has opened cracks in a virtual one-party regime which could have a profound impact on the way the country is run. The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party made its worst-ever showing, with Senator Carlos Salinas de Gortari, winning 50.36 per cent of the vote, according to final results. This opens the way for Senator Salinas to assume the presidency for six years, but his party looks likely to end up short of an overall majority in the Chamber of Deputies.

Kenya MPs expelled

Nairobi (Reuters) — Kenya's ruling party has expelled two MPs two months after they told Parliament there was a famine in their area. The Government denies there is a famine in West Pokot, 200 miles north-west of Nairobi, although the Government and the Anglican Church have distributed relief food to drought victims there. Mr Burudi Nabwera, the Secretary-General of the Kanu party said Mr Francis Lotodo and Mr Samuel Pogishio had been expelled for activities "prejudicial to peace and security".

Libya embassy siege

Bonn — A heavily armed special police unit yesterday ringed the Libyan People's Bureau in Bad Godesberg, near here, after a man with a gun barricaded himself on the ground floor (John England writes). Police said the man, aged about 30, told them by telephone that he was a stateless Arab who had escaped from a West German prison and wanted to be flown to Libya. The head of the bureau — the Libyan equivalent of an embassy — and about nine of his staff, who were on the top floor, were said to be in no danger.

Gold fever in Pacific

Sydney — Gold fever has gripped Papua New Guinea, with fortunes being made overnight (Christopher Morris writes). In one of the 20th century's biggest gold rushes, thousands of prospectors are heading for the hills of the isolated Mount Kare region, where more than £50 million worth of gold has been discovered so far.

Reports of huge nuggets being found and instant wealth have fuelled gold fever at the muddy site where a boy, aged 8, found £125,000 worth of gold in a day. Now the mountainside has been besieged by at least 3,000 people panning for gold and living rough.

Court action and stand on bases sour US-Greek links

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A prison sentence passed on a Palestinian militant wanted by the United States as a terrorist suspect, coinciding with Greece's notice to Washington on the termination of their agreement for military bases, have suddenly produced tensions in Greek-American relations.

Mohammed Rashid, aged 35, whose capture in Athens may have triggered last Monday's terrorist carnage aboard a Greek pleasure boat, was sentenced yesterday to seven months' imprisonment on a minor charge of travelling on a false Syrian passport.

His conviction is bound to delay proceedings for his extradition to the US where he is wanted for the bombing of two American passenger aircraft in 1982 and 1986 that caused five deaths.

Significantly, the Greek Government, which on Wednesday formally notified the US that its military bases must be dismantled starting next year, yesterday denounced the US in vehement language for instigating a press campaign to discredit Greece for alleged laxity towards terrorism in order, it said, to "blackmail" it into compliance.

In a prepared statement, Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos, the chief

spokesman of the Greek Government, said: "We are surprised neither by the content nor by the timing of the attack on the Greek Prime Minister by means of the familiar method of inspired articles."

"Whenever we are in negotiation with the United States, certain circles attempt to blackmail and exert inadmissible pressures to curb the firmness of Greek positions."

Leading American newspapers placed the responsibility for Monday's terrorist attack on the pro-Arab policies followed by Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, and urged Washington to declare Greece unsafe for American tourists.

The Ministry of Merchant



Mohammed Rashid: Sent to prison on a minor charge.

Marine announced that Greek commandos trained in counter-terrorism would be posted aboard all Greek passenger ships as well as coastal vessels. A 35-man anti-terrorist squad has already been set up, according to the minister, but, as he put it, "I need not 35 but 135 men for this".

The mystery of the motives for the attack against the cruise boat, City of Poros, remains despite unconvincing claims of responsibility by two Middle Eastern groups.

Reports that two "Arab-looking" men had attempted to steal carbonised bodies of victims from a Piraeus hospital were dismissed by the Government, although an alert was given after two men were seen loitering in the vicinity of the hospital mortuary.

The coroner of Piraeus, who conducted the post mortem on the nine bodies, said only three had been identified.

● NICOSIA: The Cypriot Greek-language daily, *Simerini*, said yesterday that a man believed to have been involved in the attack had been identified as Samir Khaddar, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Cypriot court for the 1978 killing of the prominent Egyptian publisher, Yusuf Sebail.

Amid growing diplomatic tension between Washington and Managua, the US Senate has overwhelmingly passed a strongly worded resolution threatening possible resumption of military aid to the Contra rebels if the Nicaraguan Government continues "blatant" violations of human rights and regional peace accords.

The resolution, approved by 91 to 4 votes on Wednesday night, was a swift reaction to President Ortega's expulsion of Mr Richard Melton, the US Ambassador, and seven other American diplomats in Managua, on charges that they incited an opposition protest on Sunday that was broken up by police using tear gas and clubs.

The US has denied the allegation and has said that the expulsions were intended to intimidate democratic opponents of the Sandinista Government.

President Reagan, in retaliation, has ordered the expulsion of Mr Carlos Tunnermann, the Nicaraguan Ambassador here, and seven of his embassy diplomats.

Mr Tunnermann is challenging the expulsion because he says he is also Nicaragua's Ambassador to the Wash-

Senate warns Nicaragua

Threat of Contra aid

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

ington headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS). Nicaragua has called for an urgent special session of the OAS to protest against the expulsion of Mr Tunnermann and the seven other diplomats.

President Ortega said he would not be surprised if the US took military action against his country. "You can expect the worst from President Reagan," he said. "There could be an aerial attack or a North American invasion against Nicaragua."

But US Administration officials here have derided such statements by him in the past as propaganda, saying White House policy was firmly against any US military intervention in Nicaragua.

The State Department has rejected the claim that Mr Tunnermann could not be forced to leave Washington because he is also accredited to the OAS. It said it had informed the OAS that the action was in conformity with agreements on privileges and immunities.

When asked about Mr Tunnermann's attempt to avoid expulsion, President Reagan told reporters: "He's going to get a big surprise."

The Senate resolution was

proposed by Mr Robert Byrd, the Democratic leader, who has been a leading opponent of military aid. It said that Nicaraguan violations of human rights and a Central America peace accord "could cause Congress to consider the provisions of additional humanitarian and other appropriate assistance, including military aid, if conditions should so warrant". The warning was in the form of a non-binding amendment to an unrelated Bill.

But Mr Robert Dole, the Senate Republican leader, plans to propose new military and humanitarian aid for the rebels, and President Reagan is enthusiastically supporting this. Mr Dole's planned new aid package includes \$20 million (£11.8 million) in military assistance that could be released only by a future congressional vote, and \$27.1 million in non-military aid over a six-month period, an aide said.

Mr Jim Wright, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, said that the House might consider action condemning recent Nicaraguan actions. But he doubted that Congress was ready to approve the resumption of military aid.

TV chiefs look to Jackson fireworks in Atlanta

From Charles Bremner
New York

The television producers are praying for a Jesse Jackson punch-up. If the black Democrat fails to stir things up at next week's Atlanta convention, the big networks realize they could be facing one of the biggest turn-offs by viewers in years.

With Senator Lloyd Bentsen saddled up with Mr Michael Dukakis, a Texan and the Thunderbirds, have been signed up to play at the grand finale, now entitled *Boston to Austin*, in Atlanta next Thursday.

Bland is the dominant mode for this year's convention. Mrs Kitty Dukakis has even announced what dress she will wear to the nomination ceremony next Wednesday.

All this is a far cry from the grand fights, uproar and raw theatre of the

conventions of yesteryear. The best for television was 1968, when bitter divisions spilled over to street battles in Chicago and Mayor Richard Daley sent his police out to beat up the hippies and anti-war protesters. Viewers, newly treated to pictures from the roving "minicam", could even watch their favourite anchormen being roughed up at the hands of Democratic security men.

More recently, 1980 saw a last-ditch floor fight being waged by Senator Edward Kennedy against Mr Jimmy Carter, and four years ago a squabble over the selection of a party chairman jeopardized Mr Walter Mondale on the eve of his nomination.

Television first turned the conventions into public spectacle in 1948, when the journalist H. L. Mencken worried that, "under the television

super glare", the keynote speaker "may faint or even catch fire".

With the possible exception of Mr Jackson, no speakers will be going up in flames at the Atlanta Omni Coliseum or at the Republican gathering in New Orleans next month. The Democratic keynote speaker, Mrs Ann Richards, the Texas state treasurer, is unlikely to stir the passions that Mr Mario Cuomo, the New York Governor, excited the last time around.

What will the 15,000-strong media army find to talk and write about if the Democrats all agree? Even the Italian television company that hired Mr Gary Hart as their convention commentator is said to be rethinking its coverage plans.

The media phenomenon of this year's event will be the overwhelming number of local television teams

competing for floor space with the network heavyweights.

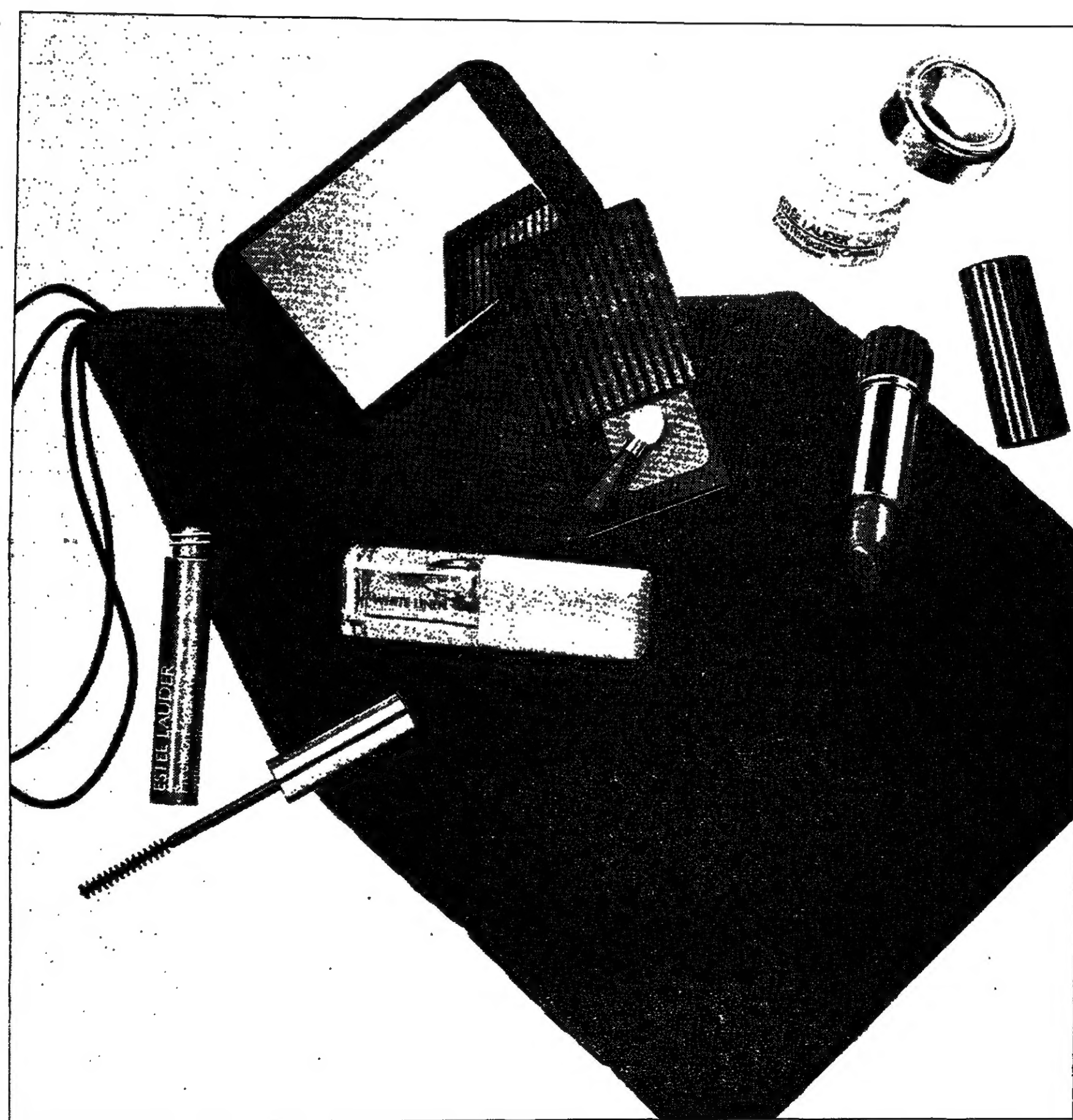
The national companies, committed to two hours of prime-time coverage every night, have been holding what one executive called "excruciating creativity sessions" to find ways of keeping their viewers awake at a time they would normally be watching soap romance and car chases.

Even Mr Jackson has assured Mr Paul Kirk, the Democratic chairman, that he will schedule his quarrels over the party platform to periods before the prime time coverage. But, given his record for unpredictability, Mr Jackson may be the main item on the Atlanta agenda. His promise this week to run an "endless campaign" has sent a few shudders among party elders. The Democrats have done their best

to tailor the event for television. They have tried to inject harmless excitement with a heavy dose of glitz and the traditional convention razzmatazz. They appointed for this purpose two wizards of television spectacle, Mr Gary Smith and Mr Dwight Henson, the men behind the 1986 Statue of Liberty festivities, the 1985 Reagan inauguration, and America's tribute to Bob Hope. But their more ambitious efforts have been sabotaged by the Dukakis team, who want less Hollywood and more down-to-earth debate. Mr Dukakis will not be rising from the stage in a cloud of smoke and light.

One winner from the convention will be Atlanta. The city's leaders calculate that the 35,000 expected visitors should have deposited about \$60 million (£35.5 million) in local coffers by the closing credits.

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Khmer Rouge drive refugees back into Cambodia war zone

From Gavin Bell, Bangkok

Thousands of Cambodian refugees have disappeared from a camp controlled by the Khmer Rouge in south-east Thailand and it is believed that the guerrillas are herding them towards war zones across the border.

Relief agencies first noticed dwindling numbers of inhabitants at the Ta Luan camp last month, and they estimate more than half of its 9,680 refugees have since disappeared into the surrounding jungle. It is anticipated that within a few weeks, only the elderly and infirm will remain.

Attempts to trace the missing refugees have been frustrated by the Khmer Rouge, and by Thai military authorities who give tacit support to the guerrillas' campaign against the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh regime.

The Khmer Rouge claims the refugees are being moved to a new camp closer to Cambodia — Ta Luan lies six miles from the border — but have not explained why. It has refused access to them by aid workers on the ground that the area is "not safe".

The fear of diplomats and aid organizations is that the exodus marks the first stage of a movement by the Khmer Rouge guerrillas to establish permanent bases in areas of Cambodia vacated by withdrawing Vietnamese troops.

"It is impossible to say whether the refugees are being moved forcibly," a diplomat said. "But given the record of the Khmer Rouge, there must be serious doubts that it is of their free will."

Another source familiar with Khmer Rouge tactics said: "Traditionally, they

never fight far from their families. It is logical to assume that as the Vietnamese pull back, the guerrillas will drive forward and drag all the civilians they can with them. It would be naive to think they would do anything else."

A further 63,000 refugees are virtual hostages of the Khmer Rouge in five other camps along the border, and there are persistent rumours of plans to evacuate them.

Bangkok (Reuters) — Vietnam, in a key policy change, has said it is willing in principle to take back refugees boat people rejected by resettlement countries, a Thai official said yesterday. The new approach will be a main element in talks here next week between recipient states and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

One perception gaining credibility is that the guerrillas are moving quickly to create civilian and military power bases in Cambodia because they are being shunted in peace talks between the Phnom Penh regime and non-communist factions of the resistance.

Both sides are firmly resolved to prevent the Khmer Rouge from restoring its infamous regime of the 1970s, during which more than a million people died.

A recent visitor to the border area said: "It seems they are preparing for a long struggle in the hills. After all, that's how they started the last time. Their leaders are fanatical enough to believe they can do it again."

Another reason for the evacuation may be to isolate

the refugees from foreign influences, and preserve their "ideological purity" carefully inculcated by party cadres.

The move has coincided with a sharp increase in artillery bombardments of camps controlled by the Khmer Rouge. Three people were killed and 21 were injured on Tuesday when shells slammed into Site 8, a large camp to the north of Ta Luan.

Officially the attacks are blamed on Vietnamese forces across the border, but diplomats suspect some of them may have been carried out by the Khmer Rouge to encourage the refugees to move. They cite two occasions in the past year when, by a curious coincidence, the Khmer Rouge camp councils were absent attending seminars when the settlements came under fire.

It is impossible to ascertain the refugees' allegiance to the Khmer Rouge, but it is widely believed that most of them would prefer to be in camps run by forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front, the two non-communist factions of the resistance. However, they are denied the choice.

For those under Khmer Rouge control, there seems no way out. An aid worker recalls a woman arriving at a clinic with an infant suffering from a blocked urinary tract. Arrangements to send him to Bangkok for an operation were halted by a Khmer Rouge cadre, who insisted it could not be done without the approval of his superiors. "We never saw the kid or his mother again," the aid worker said.

Boy pilot conquers Lindbergh route



Christopher, 11, the youngest pilot to fly the Atlantic, smiling triumphantly in Paris yesterday after he and Mr Randy Cunningham, left, retraced Charles Lindbergh's historic 1927 crossing. Christopher landed his single-engine Mooney 252 at Paris-Montparnasse airport at 10.15am after a week-long 7,062-mile journey (AP reports). He was

welcomed by his mother, Gail, who gave him a large teddy bear.

On stepping from the plane, his first words to his mother were: "I have to go to the toilet." He disappeared briefly then returned to pose for photographers.

He left San Diego, California, on July 7, and reached Paris via Texas, St Louis in Missouri, New York, Canada, Berlin

Island, Sondrestrom in Greenland, Reykjavik and Glasgow.

The flight took two days longer than expected, largely because of a faulty electrical circuit. Christopher, who began flying at the age of four, was accompanied by Mr Cunningham, aged 47, a retired US Navy pilot, who only took over the controls for one 50-mile section.

Gandhi rivals opt for alliance

By Anatol Lieven

The leaders of seven Indian opposition parties have approved the formation of an alliance amid fresh electoral successes against the Congress (I) party of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

This latest attempt by the opposition to forge unity has to be ratified next month by each party.

In two by-elections in the northern state of Haryana, bordering Punjab, the Lok Dal candidates triumphed over their Congress (I) opponents. The Haryana government is a coalition of the Lok Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

These setbacks for Congress (I) follow a round of by-elections on June 16 in which it lost three out of five parliamentary seats and five out of 10 state assembly seats.

The most important blow was the election in Allahabad of Mr V. P. Singh, the former Congress Finance Minister, who has been campaigning against the alleged corruption of Mr Gandhi's Government, particularly in the Bofors defence bribery scandal. He has formed a political movement, called Jan Morcha, to wage "holy war" on corruption.

The seven parties, at the meeting were Jan Morcha, the Janata party, which holds power in Karnataka state, Lok Dal (B), Congress (S), the Telugu Desam party from the state of Andhra Pradesh, and two other regional parties.

Observers say that the idea of an opposition alliance, rather than a united party, reflects the splits still dividing the opposition. Mr Chandra Shekhar, the Janata leader, and others are said to be jealous of Mr Singh, and unwilling to recognize him as leader of the alliance.

Sikh chief dies in gun battle with police

Amritsar (Reuters) — Indian police yesterday killed a leading member of one of Punjab's biggest Sikh separatist groups in a shoot-out, and arrested two area commanders.

Three Sikhs opened fire when security forces challenged them near the town of Kapurthala, police said. The patrol fired back and killed a man, identified as Balbir Singh of the Khalistan Commando Force. He was responsible for at least seven murders and a number of robberies, police said.

Crash threat

Sydney (Reuters) — A man aged 21 was believed to have died when he crashed a stolen light aircraft in Australian bushland north-west of here, after threatening to smash it into a town, police said.

Killer jailed

Amsterdam — Ferdi Elsas, aged 45, was jailed for 20 years for the abduction and murder of Gerrit Jan Heijn, a Dutch industrialist, and the extortion of a £2.5 million ransom from the Heijn family.

Sea skirmish

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Fourteen men suspected of smuggling video recorders from Hong Kong to China were arrested after clashing with a Royal Navy patrol near the Chinese border.

Rocket hope

Bangalore (Reuters) — India plans to press on with its ambitious space programme despite its second successive failed launch, Mr C. Rao, the Government's chief scientific adviser, said.

Aid for China

Brussels (Reuters) — The European Community is to send China 5,000 tonnes of cereals as emergency aid to Fujian province, which has been hit by typhoons.

Waste pledge

Beirut (Reuters) — Italy has told Lebanon that it will remove 2,400 tonnes of toxic chemical waste which were found dumped last month on the Kesrouan coastline.

Brazil oil find

Rio de Janeiro (AP) — Brazil has discovered a new offshore oil deposit in the South Atlantic, with reserves of some 100 million barrels.

Air born

San Francisco (Reuters) — Cleaners discovered a newborn 8lb 10oz baby girl abandoned in the lavatory of a passenger plane, an airlines spokesman said.

Rare birds

Lisbon (AFP) — About 27,000 homing pigeons which were released in Spain and due to race home to Portugal have disappeared, apparently lost in bad weather.

South Africa struggles for progress on two fronts

Segregated rail travel ended

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The piecemeal erosion of apartheid in the use of public amenities made a further advance this week with the desegregation of all train services linking South Africa's main cities with outlying suburbs and satellite towns.

Suburban trains in the Cape were desegregated last month, and the remaining racial restrictions still in force on these lines in other parts of the country were abolished from last Tuesday, the state-run South African Transport Services said yesterday.

There are now only two types of coaches on these suburban lines: first class and third class, the fares on the former being on average about twice as high as those on the latter.

It is the colour of a passenger's money, and no longer that of his skin, which determines the style in which he

travels. The first breach in suburban train apartheid was made in the Western Cape in 1985, when for the first time some "mixed" coaches were introduced. But whites-only coaches continued to be available as well. Now these, too, have gone.

Long-distance, inter-city trains still have whites-only sleeping cars, and will continue to do so for the time being. "Undressing and bedding down together in the same compartment is an intimate experience and is still a problem for some people," Mr Leon Els, the transport services spokesman, said.

While it is far from true that "petty apartheid", the name often given to the segregation of public amenities, has virtually disappeared, as apologists for South Africa often claim, it is far to say that it is on the retreat on almost all fronts

under pressure of demographic and economic reality.

With the exception of Johannesburg, all the main cities now have desegregated buses, although more luxurious services are provided for those (in practice, mainly whites) who can afford the higher fares. Internal air travel has long been desegregated.

One of the most sensitive issues is beach apartheid, a subject dear to the heart of the far-right Conservative Party. Government policy favours opening most beaches to all races, while still keeping some for exclusive use by whites. Pretoria, however, refuses to force the hand of local municipalities.

The result is a confusing patchwork. Most beaches in the Cape Town and Durban areas, for example, are now "open". But those in Port Elizabeth are mostly seg-

regated and the Coloured (mixed-race) politician, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, was dismissed from the Cabinet for defiantly swimming off a whites-only beach there last August.

Most parks are open to all races, but nearly all public swimming pools and other sporting facilities in the main city centres are still reserved for whites. Such amenities are very limited in black townships. Many public libraries are still segregated.

Cinemas, theatres, hotels and restaurants are all now desegregated. Some restaurants will, however, still refuse to take blacks.

State schools, public hospitals and residential neighbourhoods remain legally segregated under the Group Areas Act, although in the big cities the Act is being increasingly flouted.

Botha plays waiting game on regional peace accord

From Our Correspondent, Johannesburg

Official South African comment on the latest round of peace talks earlier this week, aimed at ending the inter-related conflicts in Angola and Namibia, was notably less enthusiastic yesterday than earlier statements by the Angolan and American participants.

A terse press release by the Department of Foreign Affairs said the different views and positions on "certain cardinal questions would first have to be thoroughly studied and evaluated before any indication could be given as to whether there had indeed been progress or not."

Government sources said senior Cabinet ministers would meet, probably early next week under the chairmanship of President Botha,

to decide whether Pretoria could accept the broad framework for an accord in south-western Africa drawn up by lower-level officials in New York.

The impression here is that Pretoria is coming under serious pressure to meet the September 29 target date for the signing of a peace agreement, set some time ago by America and the Soviet Union and endorsed in New York on Wednesday by the chief of the Angolan armed forces, Lieutenant-General Antonio dos Santos Franca.

Pretoria is in a predicament. Crucial all-race elections to segregated municipal councils are due to be held on October 26. The far-right Conservative Party, which is set to make sweeping gains in white town

councils, would ruthlessly exploit any "sell-out", as they would see it, of white interests in Namibia and Angola.

Pretoria also fears that an agreement to pull-out of Angola and grant independence to Namibia would send a signal to radical black groups in South Africa, currently in a demoralized state, that white power was once more on the retreat, thus giving encouragement to those planning disruption and boycotts of the October 26 poll.

All parties to the New York talks, which were also attended by a Cuban delegation, have taken home a still-secret document. If responses to these principles are favourable, another round of talks will be held in early August at a venue still to be fixed.

White jailed over bomb link



Rory Maguire, a Zimbabwean businessman — pictured here handcuffed and manacled at his first court appearance on February 5 — was yesterday sentenced to seven years' hard labour for failing to report that

he knew of a gang of South African saboteurs responsible for bombings against African National Congress personnel in Harare. Maguire, aged 37, showed no emotion as Mr Colin Ratcliffe passed sen-

tence (Jan Raath writes). He is the first white Zimbabwean convicted of a treasonous offence since independence in 1980. Maguire was arrested after a bomb almost destroyed an ANC residence.

Economic enigma of Malawi

Banda's iron hand keeps crisis at bay

From Andrew Backoko, Zomba Plateau, Malawi

In the forest-clad mountains here, lines of men shuffle down precipitous paths with bundles of logs balanced on their heads. This is how Malawi's former capital, Zomba, 4,000 ft down and 10 miles away, gets its firewood.

For all the rapid economic growth — in the 1970s it averaged nearly 6 per cent annually — and infrastructure development since independence in 1964, Malawi remains one of the poorest countries in the world. There is a minimum wage — less than 25p a day for agricultural workers (a loaf of bread costs 30p) — but most employers, local or foreign, will pay no more.

A growing appreciation of the dire poverty of most of the 7.5 million population — illustrated by a child mortality rate of 320 per thousand in the first five years of life — has led aid

donors and the Malawian elite into an urgent discussion on how macro-economic success can be translated into an improved standard of living for the majority.

Most Malawians are smallholders whose tiny, overworked plots force them to seek work on plantations or in light industry.

Few believe the current system can survive without President Banda's iron hand. He is believed to be in his late eighties.

Malawi's cities could almost be European, with smart new offices interspersed with freshly painted colonial buildings and High Streets with well-kept banks, building societies and supermarkets — often well-stocked with South African goods.

But impoverished street hawkers pester pedestrians to buy vegetables, mats or wood

carvings. President Banda and the guests for the 30th anniversary celebrations, in Blantyre this week, of his return from Britain in 1958 to lead the nationalist movement, were not supposed to see them. The police cleared them off the streets.

Little economic progress is possible until Malawi regains its access to the Indian Ocean ports of Nacala and Beira in Mozambique, seized by Mozambique's "rebels" since 1984.

Almost all Malawi's annual export earnings of about £150 million come from tobacco, tea and sugar. The cost of shipping through Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania or South Africa absorbs more than 30 per cent of their value.

The international donor community is impressed by the Government's determination to get the internal

management of its economy right.

Malawi must be one of the few countries that has in the past resisted the IMF's encouragement to reschedule its debt, on the ground that it wanted to keep an absolutely clean record.

At a meeting in Paris last month — attended by the IMF and World Bank as well as by Malawi's main bilateral donors, Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Italy — it was agreed to increase assistance pledged for the next two years to a total of \$555 million.

Much of the money will be spent on essential imports for the agricultural and nascent industrial sectors, but significant sums will also be spent on improving transport routes, especially the northern route to Tanzania, on which Malawi is now forced to rely.

Taiwan party congress drops old guard in reform move

By Anatol Lieven

The ruling Nationalists in Taiwan yesterday ended their party congress which has changed the face of the country's domestic and foreign policies.

The 12 new members appointed to the 31-member policy-making Central Standing Committee were all nominated by President Lee Teng-hui and endorsed by the Central Committee. The 180-member Central Committee was itself elected by the congress on Tuesday. They are on average 17 years younger than the men they are replacing, and include a higher number of indigenous Taiwanese.

The congress confirmed the authority of President Lee, who was elected party chairman. This week has seen the eclipse of the

dynasty founded by Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist President of China, who led his defeated armies over the straits from the mainland in 1948.

The head of the family, Chiang Kai-shek's son, General Chiang Wego, was passed over by President Lee in his nominations to the Central Committee, and his widow made a conservative speech declaring that "we should make innovations without forgetting the past and move ahead without forgetting our roots."

But the customary standing ovation when the frail, white-haired lady of uncertain but considerable age ascended the platform, had something of the air of a valedictory.

President Lee, of Taiwanese descent, was chosen by President

Chiang Ching-kuo to succeed him. The late President Chiang, another son of Chiang Kai-shek, picked Mr Lee against the wishes of his step-mother. Before he died in January he was anxious that his family should not remain an all-powerful dynasty blocking reform, and that indigenous Taiwanese should gain greater power at the expense of the mainland refugees who have dominated Taiwan since 1948.

President Lee is a Christian with a training in agricultural economics. A popular figure, he has been described by Po Yang, a noted writer, with some exaggeration, as "the first leader with a happy family and a healthy mind in China's 5,000-year history".

The position of the mainlanders and conservatives was further weakened at this week's congress

by the elections to the Central Committee, the first free one in Taiwan's history. The scandal-plagued conservative Prime Minister, Mr Yu Kuo-hwa, just scraped by, while other conservative ministers also suffered setbacks. A Cabinet reshuffle must now be imminent. Mr Yu is expected to remain Prime Minister, but new ministers will be chosen from the younger, reformist candidates who did well in the party elections. The average age of the Central Committee has dropped by 10 years, to 59.

The choices for the Central Committee partly reflect a consciousness that the party will need to seek electoral popularity if it is to survive in power in the longer run. Taiwan now has several political parties, though as yet there is no

threat to the Nationalist dominance.

The way to liberalization of the country's political system was opened in July last year by President Chiang's lifting of martial law, which had been in force in Taiwan for 40 years. Under martial law, the Nationalist Party with its Confucian and nationalist ideology, was the only legal political party. It still controls every sector of Taiwanese life.

Concerning relations with Peking, the congress re-affirmed the Nationalists' continued official adherence to the "Three Nos" — no contacts, no negotiation, no recognition — and that re-unification with the mainland could only come through "democracy".

However, feeling among dele-

gates was strongly in favour of closer links, and the Government announced that selected private visits from the mainland will now be allowed, as travel to China has been since last November.

A proposal submitted to President Lee yesterday by senior party members calls for loans to China of up to \$10 million (\$25.9 million). It said that China should be repaid not by violence but through economic and cultural development.

The Government said earlier this week that trade and private investment in China is now permitted.

Taiwan has a great deal of capital looking for "foreign" investment opportunities, and Peking is anxious for such investment, so the result may be an ever closer relationship between the economies of big and little China.

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The Mail on Sunday

Motoring

A super-smooth Tipo for the top

By FRANK PAGE

FASTEST and most powerful of the new Fiat Tipos is the turbo-charged diesel.

But the best seller in Britain will surely be the 1.4-litre petrol model, aimed at the market now dominated by the Ford Escort and Vauxhall Astra.

The impressive shape of this important new hatchback, to be launched here in July, looks better than it appears in photographs.

Spacious

Its smooth, wind-cheating line is given an interesting filip by the sudden upward slope of the rear quarter-light — an unusual treatment for the back of a five-door hatch that really seems to work.

The quarter-light also keeps the interior airy, while the heightened roof gives back-seat passengers plenty of headroom.

It is a roomy car overall and the generous luggage space becomes enormous with the back seats folded.

Wide doors make access easy and the seats are well shaped and soft enough to ease the strain on a long journey.

The driving position is admirable, with good all-round visibility



ROOMY AND WILLING: The impressive new Fiat Tipo 1.4

ROAD TEST

PRICE: £7,500 (approx).
ENGINE: 4-cylinder, 1,372 cc, 72 bhp, 4-star fuel.
PERFORMANCE: 0-60 mph 12.9 secs, max 101 mph.
ECONOMY: 34-36 mpg.
RANGE: (tank 12.5 gallons) 400 miles.
INSURANCE: Probably Group 4.

and an adjustable steering column.

I am not too sure about the digital instrument layout on the 1.4 I tested. It slots neatly into an elongated dash, but the constantly changing digits are distracting and the flashing-light econometer seems an unnecessary extra.

On the road, the willing response of the Tipo 1.4 soon compensates for any niggles. It performs briskly and handles

neatly with commendable refinement.

The 72 bhp engine gives a top speed of just over 100 mph and an 0-60 dash in less than 13 seconds. Cruising in fifth at the legal limit is comfortably quiet, except for road roar.

One of the Tipo's best features is its smooth and light gear box. While the steering is rather vague on the straight, the car feels agile and secure on bends.

Lasting

It's a good all-round family car you can enjoy driving hard, with big front disc brakes to slow you down with impressive efficiency.

And it should last well, for much of the body is made of galvanised steel and the rear hatch is all-plastic.

I expect the price to compete with the Escort, Astra, Peugeot 309 and VW Golf, at around £7,500. Any cheaper it will be a snip.

FIAT

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July 14 1988

PARLIAMENT

Furious Labour demand assurance on nurses' pay

There was an angry reaction from the Opposition during Prime Minister's question time when Mrs Thatcher, asked for a categorical assurance that every regional health authority would have sufficient funds to meet the nurses' pay award in full, replied that the amount made available was the pay review body.

Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Opposition, had asked: Will the Prime Minister give a categorical assurance that every regional health authority will receive sufficient additional Government funds to meet the cost of the nurses' pay award and the regrading, which she promised to finance, in full?

Mrs Thatcher: The Government has made available an additional £566 million, additional to the extra £237 million already in the forecast, for the nurses' award this year. This includes the bulk of the estimated cost of the clinical grading exercise put forward by the nurses pay review body.

Mr Hattersley: The Prime Minister really must try to answer a question I did not ask. Will every health authority be given sufficient additional funds

PRIME MINISTER

to meet the cost of the new pay bill? Five authorities have insisted they are going to be left short in October. Yes or no?

Mrs Thatcher: The amount that has been made available was the amount that was estimated by the nurses' pay review body. That full amount has been put forward. The formula used for estimating the total sum required was agreed between representatives of National Health Service chairmen and the review body.

That amount is intended to be the amount which they said the regrading strategy would cost.

Mr Hattersley: The sum was not agreed, but the Prime Minister's error of fact is not the matter at issue.

The issue is that unless every regional health authority can be sure of the ability to meet the increased pay bill, there are going to be closed wards and bed cuts, and five authorities say that.

Does she not understand that, as the Cabinet, insulated from the medical care, not care happens to the NHS?

Mrs Thatcher: No. £803 million is the amount necessary to fund it in full. Most nurses in the United Kingdom rejoice at that £803 million compared with the cut, cut, cut under Labour

make trouble (laughter and interruptions from the Opposition) he would first read the letter of July 13, 1988, by Mr Trevor Clay (general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing).

It was the Labour Government that cut nurses' pay. This Government has increased it. This was the cutter of nurses' pay.

Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab): Can she break the habit of a lifetime and now give a straight answer to a straight question, which has now been put to her four times?

Is the Government going to fully fund the pay award and regrading exercise for the nurses?

Will she understand that nurses in every constituency in this country do not regard concern about their pay as trouble-making. They are much more concerned with Government treachery and that is what will take place if she now says that they are not going to fully fund the pay award for nurses?

Mrs Thatcher: £803 million is the amount necessary to fund that award in full. It was not calculated by the Government.

Labour MPs: Yes or no?

Mrs Thatcher: It was calculated by the nurses' pay review body. It is intended to fund it in full. Most nurses in the United Kingdom rejoice at that £803 million compared with the cut, cut, cut under Labour



If the Bank of England was not prepared to give the English a choice between a bank note and the scum, heavy and thick £1 coin, Scottish bank notes ought to be legal tender south of the border, Mr Dennis Gormley (Glasgow West, Lab) (above left) said during Treasury questions.

Mr Peter Brooke, Paymaster General, had told the House that smaller 5p and 10p coins would be issued in 1990. Bank notes, he said, were the responsibility of the Bank of England.

Mr Canavan asked if there was any other country in the world which had its lowest value bank note at the equivalent of £5 sterling?

Mr Brooke said that Mr Canavan had made a much more witty speech on the subject than he made in July 1986 in support of his Bill concerning Scottish bank notes.

Lead in finance feared

There was a risk that Frankfurt and the West German financial centre would be the sole financial centre of Europe, to the long-term loss of the United Kingdom, as an outcome of the Prime Minister's ambivalent and isolated position, Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross Cromarty and Skye, SLD) said at question time.

He asked whether Mrs Thatcher agreed that the Conservative backbenchers who had voted against the European Community Finance Bill earlier this week shared her put in the issue. She seemed to be in an increasingly ambivalent position at home and abroad.

Mrs Thatcher: My position is direct at home and in Europe, both to the advantage of Britain.

Credit plea is rejected

Lord Beaverbrook, a Government whip, rejected a plea from Lord Rippon (Leamington, C) for the Government to control the consumer credit boom.

Lord Rippon pointed out during questions that simply increasing interest rates did not necessarily control inflation and might be a false fire. The Government should stop banks and others issuing credit cards and encourage borrowing at rates that would make a man's loan look like a charitable institution.

Secrets move refused

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thames Valley, C) asked for the debate on the Official Secrets Act to be postponed from Friday, July 22, to a date when the Government would be able to debate the reform of the dog-watches of a July Friday.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, said that he had arranged the debate because of an understanding that the Government had given. He recognized that for some people Friday was not the most convenient day.

Demand 'still unclear'

Only when the position after the abolition of steel quotas by the EEC became clear would it be known whether the Government's capacity would be in excess of demand, Mrs Thatcher said during question time.

She was replying to Mr Alexander Salmond (Banff and Buchan, SNP) who had asked why, if no decision had been about the Ravenscroft hot strip mill, Sir Robert Schuler (chairman of British Steel Corporation) should be publicly writing its obituary.

Passport delay

The average time taken to process passport applications ranged from 49 days in London to three days in Belfast, Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said during questions when peers complained about long delays.

Recess dates

Both Houses of Parliament will rise for the summer recess on Friday July 29. The Commons will return on Wednesday, October 19; the Lords will return on Monday, October 10.

Imports 'part of the boom'

A great deal of import growth was in capital, semi-capital and intermediate goods that were being imported as part of the present investment boom, Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said during questions. The deficit on current account for the first five months was estimated at £4.7 billion.

Earlier, Mr Peter Lilley, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said that in the past three months the growth of imports of investment goods had been 19 per cent; growth for consumption was only 10 per cent.

Mr Lilley was replying to Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C), who said that the Department of Trade investment survey showed a 10 per cent rise in manufacturing investment.

Was it not inevitable that a rise of that size would be reflected in the import figures? Did not these figures and the excellent figures showing that manufacturing productivity was continuing to rise by 6 per cent offer the best hope of a continuing improvement in competitiveness?

Mr Gordon Brown, shadow Chief Secretary, said that the most worrying aspect of the high-interest-rate, high-exchange-rate policy was that the balance of trade was deteriorating most sharply for the new industries of computers, information technology and electronics, where the deficit had been estimated to be £2 billion.

Would the Chancellor of the Exchequer now fulfil the promise made yesterday by Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, and publish revised forecasts for the balance of payments for this year and next year? Or was he too ashamed of the real figures even to do that?

Mr Lilley said that the Chancellor had indicated that he would publish revised forecasts in the autumn in the normal way required under the Industry Act. Mr Brown's assessment was grotesque, particularly in the light of the fact that when Britain had won its biggest export order for manufactured goods.

Cervical smear worry

HEALTH

Independent advisers were checking the slides from 60 cervical cancer smear tests at the Christie Hospital in Manchester after doubts were expressed about them as a result of a routine check. Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, confirmed in response to a private notice question in the Commons.

Part of the problem with the slides related to the process by which they were made, which had made them difficult to interpret.

Where appropriate, repeat smears had been or were being taken. She had complete confidence in the Christie and she was satisfied that action had been taken promptly.

Mr Keith Bradley (Manchester, Withington, Lab) said it was

essential that adequate resources were made available to ensure a reliable service was maintained.

Mrs Currie said it was not a question of resources but of how the slides had been prepared.

Mr Winston Churchill (Davyhulme, C) asked whether this problem had arisen because of human failure or because of a failure to provide the most modern equipment.

Mrs Currie said that it would be premature for her to comment on what had gone wrong — if anything. The Christie Hospital did 250,000 smears a year out of a national total of four million and was a big part of the screening programme.

Women most in danger were those who never had a smear and the majority of deaths occurred among women who had never been tested.

Miss Harries Harman, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security, called for a national quality control programme in medical laboratories and a national television advertising campaign to give women the confidence to go for smear tests.

Mrs Currie said that national procedures had been laid down in a circular she issued in January which Miss Harman obviously had not read.

As some four million smears were being taken every year, she thought that a national television advertising campaign was probably unnecessary.

Debt plan working soon

TREASURY

The details of the scheme to reschedule the debts of the most heavily indebted countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, were agreed at a meeting of the Paris Club this week and it should not be too long before the agreement is implemented, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said during question time.

[The Paris Club is an organization of developed countries that deals with the difficulties of debtor nations failing to meet their debt obligations.]

Mr Lawson recalled that agreement had been reached at the economic summit at Toronto last month on the lines of the initiative he had launched in April 1987, to reduce the debt of the poorest countries that were following approved economic policies. The agreement had been due to British persistence.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stretford, Lab) said that the cost of the debt, particularly in Latin America, could be measured directly in jobs lost in Britain.

Mr Lawson said there was a strategy for dealing with the problems.

It was not just a matter of the

International Monetary Fund taking a lead, nor of commercial banks rescheduling debts, but also, vitally, of the debtor countries putting their own economic houses in order.

He added later that if all the countries involved rescheduled fully, the scale of benefit would be about \$500 million.

Mr Stuart Holland, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said that up to 250,000 jobs had been lost in the export sector in the United Kingdom since 1982 because of South American debt problems.

Why had the United Kingdom not responded to the invitation of the French Government to write off a third of the debt of the 20 least developed African countries?

Mr Lawson said that Britain had done far more in writing off than had France, but the two countries were working closely together and he would not enter into competition on the matter.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) was accused during questions by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of making a serious slur against the Central Statistical Office.

Mr Skinner asked the Chancellor to explain why invisibles, which in election year had been running at £700 million a month, had fallen to £400 million a month in the first three months of 1988.

"There is a point of view that these figures were fiddled during election year to assist the balance of payments."

If that £400 million were continued throughout 1988 it would produce another £1 billion deficit on the Chancellor's balance of payments.

Mr Lawson said that the figures for the balance of trade on invisibles were done totally independently by the Central Statistical Office.

"And it is a serious slur he has made on that office and on the civil servants who work for it. I hope he will withdraw it."

Mr Skinner did not respond.

Speeches to be limited

Horrid punishment wanted

COMMONS

There was no one so selfish as an MP with a very long speech whose time had come, Mr Tony Banks (Newham North, West, Lab) told the Commons.

He was speaking during a short debate in the early hours of Thursday on a motion, later approved, allowing the Speaker to call on MPs to limit speeches to 10 minutes.

That would apply between 6pm and 7.30pm or between 7pm and 8.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays and between 11.30am and 1pm on Fridays for second reading and Opposition debates, motions in the name of a minister and for an address in answer to the Queen's Speech.

Mr Banks said that nothing was more frustrating than sitting like Cicero or Demosthenes, burning to speak, while someone else in Mr Banks's words "came old far-boys" — went on for hours and hours, rambling endlessly.

Nothing was too horrid to happen to such a miscreant.

He would want a series of levers and a trap door for the Speaker to pull which would send the individual plunging into the cellar or force him to learn by heart the collected works of Mr Robert MacInnes, joint leader of the SLD (prolonged laughter).

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, moving the motion, said that the House had had three experiments on short speeches and the time had now come to make this modest proposal a standing order.

Mr Bruce Grocott, an Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, said that this would enable more MPs to speak in important debates, perhaps three or four more, and that was clearly an advantage.



Peers and MPs preparing yesterday for next week's tug-of-war in support of a cancer relief charity. From right: Lord Hesket, Mr Nicholas Soames, Mr Alastair Goodlad, Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe, Lord Strathclyde and Lord Addington (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Night shelter exemption accepted

Poll tax help for charities

The following report of a Lords debate on the Local Government Finance Bill appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Government announced two important changes to its community charge reforms to help charities.

At the third reading of the Bill, the Government accepted an amendment raising the amount of mandatory relief from the business rate for charities from 50 per cent to 80 per cent. Local authorities will be able to relieve them of the remaining 20 per cent at their discretion.

The Earl of Caithness, Minister of State for the Environment, also announced that, after further consideration, the Government would give total exemption to those living in night shelters and hostels run by charities and the churches.

The concession is expected to relieve the need for bodies such as the Salvation Army and Crisis at Christmas to collect 20 per cent of the community charge from 10,000 people.

However, the Earl of Caithness rejected another amendment, moved by Lord Sandford (C) and later withdrawn, calling for 100 per cent relief.

Moving the amendment to give 80 per cent relief instead of the present 50 per cent, Lord Hoyer (Ind) said that from the Sue Ryder Foundation to Mencap to Dr Barnardo's there

HOUSE OF LORDS



Lord Hoyer: United plea for action from the House. Something must be done.

Such a move would save charities a large part of the new costs of revaluation. It would go a long way towards achieving a much-sought-after equality of treatment for different premises.

"I offer the Government an honourable compromise in the interests of the charitable sector."

The Earl of Caithness said that in response to the concerns expressed by the House, the Government had been looking again at whether the 50-50 rule

struck the right balance. Some charities would face increases in rates as a result of revaluation.

Left to itself, the Government would have found it possible to move to one half, one third or even three quarters mandatory relief. But those amendments were not on the table. After consideration, it had decided to support Lord Hoyer's amendment.

Lord McIntosh of Harrogate, for the Opposition, said that this concession was generous and the more appropriate of the two options available to the House.

Lady Carnegy of Lour (C) said that the Government was making a big mistake. The 50-50 balance was right.

Earlier, peers of all parties welcomed the Government's change of mind on levying part of the community charge on short-term hostels and night shelters.

The Earl of Caithness said that regulations will be brought forward to give total exemption to "a category of property". It had not been possible in the time available to define that category yet, but he could give a firm undertaking that it would include night shelters and short-term hostels that levied a small charge.

Under the original proposals, charities and churches running such accommodation would have been forced to collect 20 per cent of the charge from residents.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Timetable motion on Education Reform Bill and consideration of Lords amendments to it.

Tuesday: Education Reform Bill, completion of consideration of Lords amendments.

Wednesday: Timetable motion on Local Government Finance Bill and consideration of Lords amendments to it.

Thursday: Debates on estimates on hospital and community health services and on training.

Friday: Debate on the White Paper on the reform of the Official Secrets Act.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Firearms (Amendment) Bill, committee, first day.

Tuesday: Health and Medicines Bill, committee, second day.

Wednesday: Housing (Scotland) Bill, report, second day. Firearms (Amendment) Bill, committee, second day.

Thursday: Housing Bill, committee, first day.

Friday: Criminal Justice Bill, Commons amendments.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on Hong Kong.

Lords (11): School Boards (Scotland) Bill, second reading. Debate on staffing of EEC institutions.

Tax reform 'plays vital part'

Tax reform had had a vital part to play in proving the performance of the economy, Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said.

Moving the third reading of the Finance (No 2) Bill, he said that that performance was the overriding test by which the reforms stood to be judged.

The 1988 Budget had been a landmark. It marked the final and decisive move away from a tax regime based on envy to a tax regime designed to promote enterprise and efficiency and thus to enhance prosperity.

The measures in the Bill were not a one-off but the logical consequences of nine successive Budgets.

They had one clear aim: not to line the pockets of the super-rich, as the Opposition claimed, but to improve the supply performance of the economy and it was self-evidently working.

The Labour Party remained wedded to the orthodoxy of the 1960s: that the only purpose of cutting tax rates was to give a sluggish economy a short-term fiscal boost.

That was stone-age economics and the Labour Party ought to know better by now.

The Budget had improved incentives and hence the supply-side performance. In the long run, that meant more growth, more jobs and higher prosperity.

It was hard to take lectures on fiscal rectitude from the Labour Party, which had fought the last

general election with plans to spend an extra £55 billion and which had planned not a public sector debt repayment of £3 billion but a massively inflated public sector borrowing requirement.

The Budget's aim had not been to boost demand but to improve supply-side performance.

Britain was now entering its eighth successive year of sustained growth averaging 3 per cent, a performance not equalled for half a century.

It was at the top of the European growth league after two decades at the bottom. Inflation was back to the levels of the 1950s and 1960s.

In manufacturing industry, productivity had risen by more than 5 per cent a year — faster than any other major industrialized country — and that was a remarkable turnaround.

An attempt by the Opposition to force the Government to publish a list of interest rates being charged by banks, credit card companies and other institutions was rejected when the report stage of the Bill started in the Commons on Wednesday (as reported in later editions yesterday).

Labour MPs complained at the high and varying rates of credit being offered to customers and the confusion that was causing.

Mr Christopher Smith, an Opposition spokesman on economic affairs, moved a clause

which it was paid back within a specified period of the year.

The new clause was rejected by 244 votes to 189 — Government majority, 55.

Dr John Marek, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, moved a clause to make tax advisers register schemes and advice being given to extremely wealthy people so that they could avoid paying tax.

He said that if there was more knowledge about what went on in the industry of tax avoidance, the country would not put up with it and the Government would be forced to act.

Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes, C), parliamentary adviser to the Institute of Chartered Accountants, said that Dr Marek seemed to be saying it was wrong to be accurate and wrong to seek advice about the law.

He would not say that for someone who sought advice about immigration law or about social security benefits, so why avoid someone who sought advice on tax?

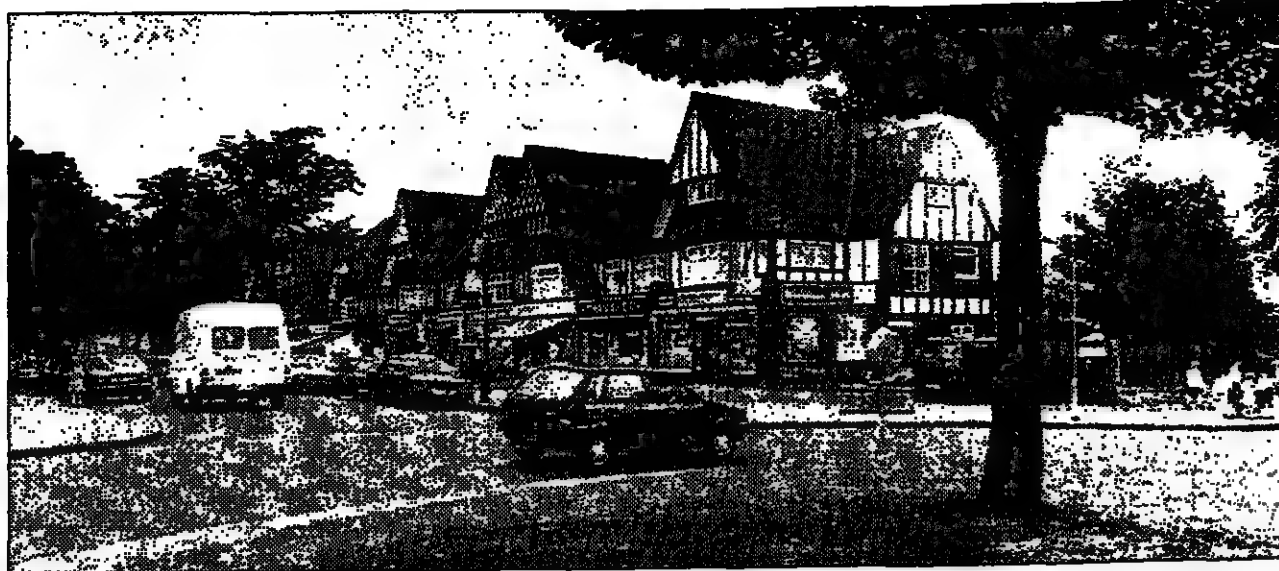
Miss Joyce Quin (Gateshead East, Lab) said the Government seemed to think that tax avoidance and tax evasion resulted from punitive tax rates, but tax avoidance had increased, not decreased, even when taxes came down.

The new clause was rejected by 252 votes to 197 — Government majority, 55.

SPECTRUM

Classic Thirties-style streets are in danger, Alan Franks reports. Now one city has decided to preserve its suburban heritage

The street they froze in time



Time is about to receive an instruction to stand still in a leafy suburb of Birmingham. The details of this directive are even now being drawn up in council offices in the heart of the city — a heart still bleeding from successive waves of planning anarchy.

The suburb is Hall Green, the time is the mid-1930s, and the residential development in School Lane is an undefined classic of the epoch: the granite kerbs, the grass verges, the paving stones and the now adult plane trees; the wrought iron lamps, the castellated garden walls, and behind them the red bricks of the doorstep and the black and white tiles.

In the front bedroom you half expect to see a boy in baggy flannels trying to raise the Home Service on his crystal set. But then the school disgorges, a tide of children surges down the road and eddies around the video shop, the roundabout clogs with cars, and half a century passes.

Birmingham's aim is to wrap this arcadia in aspic by means of a conservation order, and all the signs are that it will manage to do so, with the necessary approval from the Department of the Environment, before the year is out. If it does, then this may be the very first development of the period to be thus protected in this country.

In practical terms it would

mean that nothing in the designated area of about 150 homes could be added to or altered unless strictly in the style of the original. Yet it would not entail a total freeze: far from it. Council money would be made available for residents who would love to renovate sympathetically but cannot afford to. One immediate result of that would be to prevent any more of the bay windows disappearing as the soft wood rots and the owners look for a cheaper replacement.

It might seem strange that a local authority should want to cosset the architecture from a period in which more than 50 per cent of the present-day city was built. After all, Hall Green, like the neighbouring suburbs such as Kings Heath and Acocks Green, was part of Birmingham's own Metroland, burgeoning between the wars and linked to its metropolis by the Outer Circle bus route. It may be Bejmanesque, but it is also abundant.

There are two explanations. First, School Road happens to be an excellent example of the *genus*, and second, the whole city has become so sensitive about conserving what is good that it is now doing so long before a desperate rearguard action is required. If that represents a large swing of the pendulum, it is only a response to the far more drastic and irreversible swing of the demolition ball since the war, which has done for

the market hall, the library, the Georgian terraces of Vauxhall and much more.

The man responsible for the initiative in Hall Green is Christopher Pancher, aged 39, principal planning officer at Birmingham's development department. He is an architect with a passion for the restoration of timber-framed buildings, and although he denies being a "Thirties nut", occasionally lets his guard drop with this sort of recollection: "When I was a boy in the Fifties, my father had this wonderful open Alvis 12/50, and we'd drive around in it and all the other children would say: 'Look at that old crock!' I somehow think there'd be a rather different attitude today. I feel rather like that about buildings."

The trouble with industrial cities in general, Pancher argues, and with Birmingham in particu-



Preserved: School Lane in the Fifties (left), as it is today (right), and Edith Newton, who has lived there since her house was completed

lar, is that they renew themselves too quickly: the usefulness of an entire crop of buildings is outlived before its merits are fully appreciated. In the 1890s the second generation of industrial wealth built bold and splendid business premises in places such as New Hall Street, and too many of them

have gone. It is only in cities such as Bath, where there is a decline after a period of fashion and prosperity, that the old buildings, 200 years on, become objects of admiration once more.

In the context of that analysis, the freezing of School Road is neither as premature nor as mock-heroic as it sounds, even though it is odd to hear such high talk of heritage in the shadow of the Three Magpies pub on a wet weekday afternoon. At a quick glance this could be one of the Underground stations on the northern reaches of the Piccadilly Line: flat roof, brick pylon, agglomeration of rectangles. Even with the neon strips restored and the metal window frames given a bright lick of paint, surely this building is at best utilitarian, at worst deeply charming?

As it happens, the Three Mag-

pies is a good example of the Reformed Pub Movement of the Thirties, with, in Pancher's words, "the simple rectilinear forms one associates with Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus, but with brickwork in a manner reminiscent of Dudok's schools at Hilversum."

It is also at the very heart of the School Road story. Had the brewery, John Courage, not applied to the council for permission to remove the parapet of vertical bricks and build a low-pitched prairie roof à la Frank Lloyd Wright, and had it not then appealed, unsuccessfully, to the Department of the Environment against the council's refusal, the whole question of conservation in the neighbourhood would not have received such an airing.

It is only with the DoE inspector's endorsement two months ago of Pancher's special pleading that the council now feels it has a strong case for the protection not only of the pub, but of the immediate neighbourhood as well. The Three Magpies might not look like the stuff of which test cases are made, but Courage, in trying to tamper with it, has unwittingly done the conservationists a favour.

Given the general tenor of recent DoE circulars, which have echoed architects' views that local authorities should not have jurisdiction over aesthetic matters, the inspector's decision came as a

surprise to the council, albeit a welcome one.

At present the little parade of shops at the heart of this once progressive but always homely estate is not entirely sure which age it belongs to. The fish and chip shop is still there as it has always been, like the newsagent, though neither has the original fascia. There is a Thrashers, and a Food for Thought delicatessen and, slightly further back in time, the narrow frontage of Patricia's Hair Salon. The only real Thirties legacy still visible is the white lettering of Barbers Teas on the frosted panels of what is now the Pretty Pantry.

It is also difficult, though not impossible, to find an "original" resident. Mrs Edith Newton, born in 1896 in east London, has lived in the street since 1936, when the house was completed. Nothing would induce her to move, even though the traffic has increased out of all recognition since the days when the road ran through open fields. "My husband, Harold, and me, we wanted a house and we were told they were building some on a farm, and we liked the style, so we bought it. It cost us £450. No, £500, because it was another £50 for the second toilet, outside. I think it's a grand idea, them wanting to keep it like it was. Does that mean getting rid of the traffic? Oh, I do so wish they would."

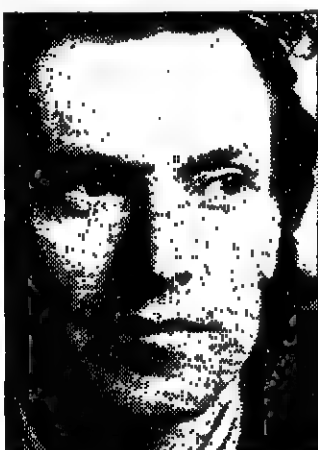
When the City turns a deaf ear

Musicians do not want to sing for the shareholders, so the City does not like the sound of the record industry

Why are City analysts so interested in a former punk musician's recording studio this week? A decade ago Billy Idol sang with the punk group Generation X. Now, through careful grooming and management, he is a worldwide star, with his last studio album selling 150,000 copies. But that was two years ago... now his record company Chrysalis is anxiously awaiting his next

effort. Earlier this week, following a reduced profits forecast, Chrysalis's chairman, Chris Wright, suggested he might follow Richard Branson's lead at Virgin and take his company — currently listed on the Stock Exchange — back into private ownership.

A business does not stand or fall on one album. But Wright is clear: "It would be great news for us if Billy Idol called up and said, 'Yesterday I recorded five tracks and I think I can get the whole thing fin-



"You can't always blame the artist": Virgin's Steve Winwood, Chrysalis's Pat Benatar and the Virgin stalwart Mike Oldfield

ished within two weeks." Then Chrysalis could slot the album into its schedule; profit forecasts would be revised, and the City possibly made happier. All Wright can say now is, "We're expecting a new studio album in calendar 89." He adds: "Really and truthfully (Idol) should have produced more than that."

The unpredictability of pop stars and their output explains why the City tends to mark down the music business. "It is not regarded as quality

earnings," says an analyst at the stockbrokers James Capel. "What they mean is that they're not happy about investing in talent rather than bricks and mortar," comments Rob Partridge, a director of Island, Britain's largest independent record company. Wright jokingly recalls an expression in the record business that "everything would be all right if it wasn't for the artists." He has attributed Chrysalis's disappointing performance to delayed record

releases, particularly from two top-selling artists, Huey Lewis and Pat Benatar. But he adds, "You can't always blame the artist for being late delivering the product. There are creative factors involved."

Wright felt Benatar's new album, *Wide Awake in Dreamland*, "lacked a good immediate rock song to get it played all over radio in the United States". In April, following a gall-bladder operation, she went back into the studio to record a further song,

"All Fired Up" — this week a successful single at number 30 in the British charts. "Clearly if the album had come out a few months earlier, we would have had extra sales."

But, he emphasizes, this is often a false economy. Pop music has progressed from 20 years ago, when record companies released anything that landed on their desks. In today's competitive market, records have to be good, and be accompanied by the right video. "They cost more to

sell," he says. "If you don't think a record will sell, it is no good putting it out." Launching even an unknown band cannot be done for less than £250,000.

The creative process cannot be hurried, that much is clear. Dire Straits has not produced a studio album for its label, Polydor, since May 1983. But the supergroup's manager, Ed Bicknell, says, "Polydor would love a new album from the band. But if someone were to phone me up and say, 'When are we going to get another album?', I'd say, 'It's none of your business'."

Gail Colson, Peter Gabriel's manager, says simply: "He delivers when he's ready and will not work under pressure."

The City finds this sort of attitude difficult to stomach. When Virgin was small it did not matter that most of its money came from Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells*, one of its earliest releases. But Virgin tried to impress the market by buying in established names such as Steve Winwood, Phil Collins and Bryan Ferry for its flotation two years ago, and paying them vast advances. Winwood is reported to have been

paid £8 million, but Virgin refused to confirm or deny this. Again, the City would like to know such figures, which can amount to a significant proportion of profits. Bicknell says analysts should be looking at not advances, but the increased royalties offered to lure artists in "transfer deals".

In the face of these uncertainties, big multinationals have been divesting themselves of their music divisions. Siemens recently pulled out of Polygram, its joint venture with Philips. General Electric sold RCA to West Germany's Bertelsmann, and Sony acquired CBS Records. In Britain Thorn-EMI is rumoured to want to rid itself of its music commitments, though this is denied at the company.

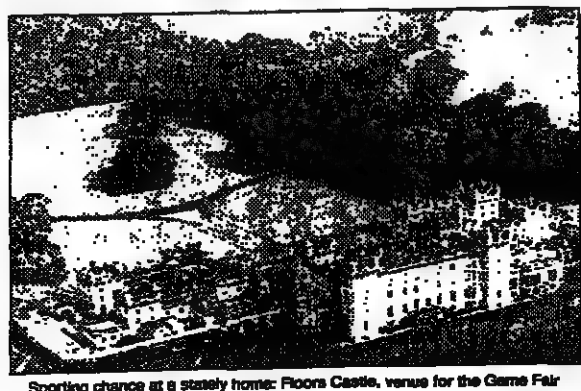
Bicknell says there was a plan for Dire Straits to go public last year. He put the idea to band leader Mark Knopfler. The musician first asked, "You mean, unzip myself?" When Bicknell explained, Knopfler replied, "You mean I'd have to write songs for shareholders? I couldn't do it."

Andrew Lycett

SATURDAY

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Sporting chance at a stately home: Floors Castle, venue for the Game Fair

Playing the game

Next week the 31st Game Fair will open at Floors Castle, Kelso, in the heart of the Borders. Some 100,000 people will make their way to the home of the Duke of Roxburghe to indulge their appetites for all things rural. But how are the great country estates such as Floors standing up to the financial pressures of the Eighties? *The Times* finds out tomorrow

SCIENCE REPORT

Depths of flower power

In 1862, Charles Darwin speculated that the reason tropical orchids have exceptionally deep flowers was in order to increase their breeding success. But only now has Darwin's idea come under scientific examination. The results, in a report in *Nature* this week, vindicate his theory. Insects searching for nectar are unwitting carriers of pollen from flower to flower. This suits both insect and plant: the insects find food, and the plants are pollinated. But the plant is pollinated only if the pollen-dusted body of a visiting insect brushes the sticky stigma, the female sex organ of the plant. Male pollen must come into contact with the stigma if the plant is to set fruit.

The problem for the insect is that nectar in an orchid is very hard to get at, being stored in small organs called nectaries situated right at the bottom of the deep flower corolla tubes. So visiting moths have to stretch their long tongues to their fullest extent in order to reach them at all. In a series of experiments, Anders Nilsson of the University of Uppsala in Sweden, has proved that the flower depth is closely related to the lengths of the tongues of hawkmoths that pollinate them. Nilsson observed that

the tubes are on average just slightly longer than the full length of a moth tongue, so that the moth must get right inside the flower to feed, rather than hovering outside. This means that a moth is likely to deposit pollen on the stigma, or collect it from the anthers, every time it feeds.

By artificially shortening the flower corolla tubes, Nilsson showed how carefully natural selection matches flower depth with the length of hawkmoth tongues: there was a dramatic reduction in the amount of pollination (and thus fruit production) in proportion to the amount by which the flower had been shortened. So, orchids with deeper flowers set more fruit and have a better chance of passing on their inheritance to succeeding generations. Because of this, the average depth of orchid flowers will increase over time. And the



hawkmoths with the longest tongues will be favoured by natural selection because they are more efficient feeders.

In putting forward the evolutionary scheme tested by Nilsson, Darwin commented that the 11in-deep flowers of the Madagascar Star Orchid must have co-evolved with a hawkmoth with an exceptionally long tongue. This idea was vindicated 40 years later with the discovery of just such a moth. Nevertheless, theorists are baffled that Darwin's idea has never been tested.

Even now researchers still need to explain how this evolutionary "arms race", as it is called, began in the first place. Darwin was vague on the subject, suggesting that the cycle might have been prompted by a general size increase in moths. But size has little to do with feeding habits: hawkmoths are avid nectar feeders

but large saturniid moths feed much less frequently. Instead the answer is more likely to lie in the special relationship between certain orchid species and specialist moths, such as that of the Madagascar Star Orchid and its attendant hawkmoth. But this model does not seem to apply to moths, butterflies and other pollinating insects with a more varied diet. Some species of bee get round the problem by avoiding the stigma and anthers, raiding nectar directly by drilling into the nectary through the base of the flower. And to view the situation as a battle between moths and flowers is simplistic: flowers do not compete with moths out of caprice, but in order to pass a greater proportion of their genes on to the next generation than flowers less successful at attracting pollinators. Similar considerations apply to moths. And flower depth and moth tongues cannot go on growing for ever. Natural selection would probably act as harshly on extra-deep flowers as on the shortened ones, because there are depths which even the threadlike tongues of hawkmoths will not plumb.

Henry Gee

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TIMES DIARY

MARTIN FLETCHER

Those who should know believe that Speaker Bernard Weatherill is ready to stand down at the next election. They believe that he will go provided it is on his own terms and he is not pressured to do so. He is 67, has done his present taxing job for five years, and would be guaranteed a pension.

Mr Weatherill was the subject of a recent vicious whispering campaign instigated by right-wing Tories who suggested that he had lost control and was far too soft on the unruly Labour Left. They were particularly angered by his surprise decision to grant an emergency debate on the Government's housing benefits cuts. At the height of this campaign Mr Weatherill gave a rare television interview in which he made it plain that he would not stand down in the face of such overt political pressure.

By coincidence, or maybe not by coincidence, that whispering campaign has ceased as suddenly as it began. The whisperers have held their tongues. Thus the way is clear for Mr Weatherill to announce his departure within the next 18 months, leaving his successor ample time to settle in before the next Parliament.

There are plenty of contenders for his job, led by Labour's popular Betty Boothroyd, the ex-Tiller girl who would love to be the first woman Speaker. Now a new name is being touted among Westminster's chattering classes — that of John Biffen, who was sacked from the Cabinet after the last election. He would not be Mrs Thatcher's choice, but nor was Mr Weatherill. He was one of the most popular Leaders of the House. Like George Thomas, he has the humour to defuse the nastiest scenes.

Tory and Labour managers go to great lengths to stage-manage their parties' annual conferences each autumn and eliminate controversy. Not so Dr David Owen's SDP. Its problem is how to generate controversy at its Torquay conference this September. Determined to dispel the idea that the party is merely a David Owen fan club, its Buckingham Gate headquarters has been quietly encouraging grassroots activists to put forward views that may be at odds with Dr Owen's. On anything but defence, that is.

Even in Zimbabwe Neil Kinnock is plagued by the hard left. On his arrival he was greeted by a searing attack in the *Herald* newspaper which is backed by Robert Mugabe's Marxist government. Its main leader described Kinnock as the "maverick" British Opposition leader. It said the chances of Labour winning power were becoming as remote as those of dismantling apartheid peacefully, and the party leadership had only itself to blame. In unadmitted Scargillism it attacked the party for failing to support the workers and condemned Kinnock's equivocation towards the party's unilateralist defence policy. "It is only if Mr Kinnock was a Z.W. Botha with an up and littered Right now with Maggie in Number 10 Botha has little to worry about."

BARRY FANTONI



No wonder they call this place a terminal lounge

Marquardt Hussey, chairman of the BBC Board of Governors, found time to address a Press Gallery lunch at the Commons on Wednesday. Curiously, he has been unable to accept repeated invitations to address a group of MPs. The group is the "all-party" British South Africa Group led by the pro-Pretoria right-wing Tory John Carlisle. It wants to grill him over the BBC's coverage of the recent Mandela concert at Wembley. It claims that it had lawyers monitoring the coverage who noted 700 political references during the day despite the BBC's assurances that they would all be edited out.

After my piece last week on who might be promoted in this autumn's reshuffle, I must naturally speculate on those ministers at risk. To make way for able junior ministers. Mrs Thatcher may feel obliged to dispense with a couple of her Ministers of State. Possible victims are Ian Stewart at Defence, David Mitchell at Transport, and Alan Clark at Trade, all long-serving capable ministers but not Cabinet material. At junior minister level both Marion Roe and Christopher Chope have had difficulties but are likely to be given more time to prove themselves. However Robert Dunn at Education is said by colleagues to be expecting dismissal, while after six years at Trade John Birtcher would almost certainly be offered lucrative private sector directorships and might welcome the chance to make some money. Donald Thompson at Agriculture must also be looking nervously over his shoulder. The first rung of the ministerial ladder is a job in the whip's office, where space could be made by offering Robert Boscawen, who is 65 and expected to leave Parliament at the next election, a knighthood. His departure would be regarded with some sadness. For the first time since the war the office would be without a former Army officer.

Following that same piece Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley was asked whether he would dutifully advance the claims of his Parliamentary Private Secretary, the portly Nicholas Soames. "And shoot my horse," exclaimed Ridley in horror. Without Soames's jokes the daily meeting of his Department's ministers would be unbearably dreary, he explained.

The report of the Marre Committee on the future of the legal profession is very much to be welcomed. Its timing could not be better, following hard upon the report of the Civil Justice Review Body last month. If, as that body envisages, the county court becomes the point of entry for almost all civil litigation, we shall have a fully decentralized system: for the magistrates' courts and the crown court already provide a decentralized system of criminal justice.

The task of the committee, set up two years ago by the two branches of the profession, was essentially to maintain and improve the legal services available in a decentralized court system and at competitive prices.

By and large the committee has done well. Its careful balance of independent members and members representative of the two branches of the profession reflected the conflict between solicitors and barristers on the key question of rights of audience in higher courts. Sadly, the conflict is as yet unresolved, as a Note of Dissent reveals, signed by one independent member and the barrister members.

The report contains a valuable analysis of existing services, current professional standards and the duties owed to the court, client and public. It emphasises the existence of a large area of unmet need for legal services

Lord Scarman reviews the Marre Committee's recommendations

Unresolved legal conflict

(social welfare law, immigration law, and housing in particular) and reminds us that the public know little about lawyers and that what little they do know they do not like.

The existence of this unmet need has to be considered when tackling the problems of publicly funded legal aid. The committee has many sensible proposals to make, its clear message being that more resources are needed. Everyone, save perhaps the Treasury, is likely to agree that more must be allocated and the upper financial limits of eligibility raised if the unmet need is to be satisfied. A notable proposal is of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to monitor the administration of legal aid.

The committee's proposals for improving the vocational phase of legal training advocate that "the highest priority should be given to investigating the possibility of a common system of vocational training" and that "both branches of the profession should investigate ways to reduce the barriers to transfer

from one branch to the other. They see no practical alternative to pupillage at the Bar and call for appropriate funding.

The committee runs into difficulty over "Structure and Practices of the Profession". The two branches of the profession differ upon the findings of the 1979 Benson Royal Commission on legal services. The fundamental proposition in the Note of Dissent is that public mistrust requires that the legal profession in England and Wales should continue to be organized in two branches: the interests of justice as a whole are, in the dissenters' view, best served by the quality of advocacy and the wide and informed choice of advocate made possible by a profession organized in two separate branches. The Note is a powerfully argued document. It is to be contrasted with the tentative and uncertain approach to the problem adopted by the majority.

The detail of their recommendation is, I think, unattractive. The majority proposes that only those solicitors whom the Law Society licenses should have the extended right of audience. Should the law graduate who opts to become a solicitor, who undergoes his vocational training (recommended to become common, to both branches of the

profession), and who attends the same courts as his barrister colleague really have to obtain a licence? I agree with the two solicitor members who think this an unnecessary and unreasonable restriction. And it is certainly no answer to the fundamental objections to solicitor advocates in jury trial raised by the Note of Dissent.

The dissenters base their case upon the findings of the 1979 Benson Royal Commission on legal services. The fundamental proposition in the Note of Dissent is that public mistrust requires that the legal profession in England and Wales should continue to be organized in two branches: the interests of justice as a whole are, in the dissenters' view, best served by the quality of advocacy and the wide and informed choice of advocate made possible by a profession organized in two separate branches. The Note is a powerfully argued document. It is to be contrasted with the tentative and uncertain approach to the problem adopted by the majority.

The difficulty which faces them is that they accept a legal profession organized in two separate branches: and yet they propose an assimilation of function in all courts other than the High Court, the Court of Appeal, and the House of Lords. And they are led to a strange conclusion. They recommend solicitors' rights of audience in the crown court but not in the other higher courts, while at the same time recommending the eligibility of solicitors for appointment as High Court judges. They would deny solicitors the opportunity of gaining the invaluable advocate's experience of the court to which they are to have the right of judicial appointment.

If the profession is to continue to be organized in two separate branches, the case against the rights of audience of solicitors in the crown court made in the Note of Dissent is surely a strong one. Unfortunately the committee does not really consider the root and branch solution of fusion, by which is meant a

single legal profession within which there will be a number of specialists, including advocacy, but no exclusion of the general practitioner from rights of audience in the courts of the land. The medical profession is a single profession which includes within it a number of specialists. Is theirs a model to be studied and followed by the legal profession? I do not know, but I believe economic and social developments in our society will require us to study it.

The Marre Committee entitle their report "A Time for Change" and make the point that "if the legal profession, and the professions generally, do not initiate appropriate change then it will be forced upon them." They also make the point that the profession has changed since Benson reported. I would add that our system of justice is changing also, and further than many people appreciate. It is likely that the legal profession will have to change more fundamentally than is envisaged in the report if it is to provide to all at a price which they and the state can afford the legal services that will be needed in the future.

Lady Marre and her colleagues have, however, shown themselves good persuaders: the most conservatively minded of all the professions has been led to recognise that the time for change is now.

Ronald Butt

In defence of children

When the rhetoric and the excitement are over, few moments in the annual conference of any political party linger in the mind. One scene from last September is, however, indelibly etched in mine. When Mr Stuart Bell, the Labour MP for Middlesbrough, walked to the rostrum, he was hissed, not by a few but by a concert of delegates, mostly women.

Why they hissed was made plain when others spoke. They detested what he had done to draw attention to the distress of Cleveland parents whose children had been snatched from them on a flimsy and uncertain diagnosis of sexual abuse.

Not one voice was raised in his support. Ms Clare Short, a fellow MP, thought that "the attack on social workers and doctors" was a message to them not to try to tackle child abuse for fear of being attacked by Labour MPs.

A delegate called Lynn Levy described as shameful "the ill-judged irrational intervention from a male Labour MP whose knee-jerk reaction caused further hurt to damaged children and embarrassed comrades on a Labour council".

It was shameful, she declared, that the overwhelmingly male Labour Party seemed to consider children "the property of their parents — and by extension — of their fathers". It was the 80 per cent of abusers who were men who had the problem, "and if the men who are still in this room feel a bit frightened — good".

Wild and strident feminism of that sort is a minority cult yet there are more apparently moderate versions of it which have a wider influence.

"Children living in families have a right to be protected", said another delegate, asserting that one in ten suffered child abuse, "very nasty things happen in families", she added and Ms Joan Lester summed it all up officially for the national executive by declaring that "the veil has now been lifted from child abuse" and that "more resources" were needed to deal with it.

That the sexual abuse of children exists is not in dispute and that it sometimes takes unspeakably hideous forms is shown by the appalling case in



Cheshire reported this week. On the other hand it is also true that detecting child sexual abuse has been designated a growth industry by some in the world of welfare who appear to start from the assumption that there is no family whose child has any sort of medical or psychological problem which should not be under suspicion as a possible source of abuse.

Warnings are spread through the media that most abuse takes place in "the family", often with the implication (which seems not to be true on the basis of such statistics as are available) that the majority of perpetrators are natural fathers. The word family is applied to cohabitations which are nothing of the sort. The image of the family as a place where "very nasty things happen" is spread and confidence in it is thereby undermined.

Yet if anything is clear from the massive report of Lord Justice Butler-Sloss on the Cleveland case (and little else is clear) it is that having heard all the medical, social, parental and other evidence, she has not the least idea of the extent to which there has been abuse of the Cleveland children, even those not returned to their families.

Nor admits her report, is there any evidence about the "general prevalence" of sexual abuse. "Most data" it says, "refer to allegations of abuse" or numbers on the child abuse register, but the data show that "increasing numbers each year are being investigated" for possible abuse.

Yet despite all the uncertainty, the report shows that Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt reached "firm conclusions" by relying "heavily" on physical signs that are medically inconclusive. They rested their diagnoses especially on signs revealed by a particular test (distressing to the children) even though the presence of these signs does not prove abuse and the absence of them does not disprove abuse.

What is clear is that if the particularly ghastly kind of abuse diagnosed so freely at Cleveland has at all increased, it cannot have done so on anything like that scale.

Even figures supplied by Dr Wynne from whom Dr Higgs learned her favoured but challenged diagnostic test, only suggest that anal abuse constituted 30 per cent of all cases. More to

the point, according to figures given in the illuminating Tynes-Tees programme on Cleveland, *Crying in the Dark*, 99 per cent of all child sexual abuse cases dealt with at Great Ormond Street are not in this category.

So we have been faced with allegations of a particularly appalling kind of abuse, on an unbelievable scale diagnosed by a doubtful test and without benefit of any doubt to parents. The two doctors are therefore rightly criticized in the report "for the certainty and overconfidence with which they pursued the detection of child abuse in children referred to them."

They and the Child Abuse Consultant Mrs Richardson co-sily supported each other's assumptions, their only real worry being the "lack of resources" to deal with the numbers they detected.

The report makes grave criticism of the doctors. They are shown to be doggedly obsessed with a theory. Yet such is the contemporary climate that criticism of them is glossed with repeated compliments to their "caring, competent, dedicated, hard-working approach." It is said to be wrong to place the whole burden of the crisis on

them. Yet how did the crisis arise if not from their attitude and diagnosis which crowded the wards and caused so much distress? Why does the report refer repeatedly to "the Crisis" as though it were some impersonal fate that fell on Cleveland? Was a terrible growth of abuse happening there alone or does it exist elsewhere undiscovered? The latter likelihood is discredited by the report's challenge to the diagnostic method.

Crying in the Dark showed a video film made by social workers of themselves browbeating a child to disclose abuse, telling her how they were going to "fight, really, really, really fight, for you not to go home" with the child pleading "Nothing happened", only to be told "You can trust me, we know something happened".

They "knew" it, of course, from the confidence in the medical diagnosis, the fashionable social worker's conviction that families are places where "nasty things happen" and because their training often inculcates a more persuasive version of the attitudes of Mr Bell's hisses. Such is the current climate of received "moderate" opinion that Mr Bell himself was

actually treated censoriously in the report. His allegations were dismissed or denied and even his statement that he would not send his own five-year-old son to Middlesbrough General Hospital was dismissed as "an emotional response". But since eight per cent of those children who happen to see Dr Higgs were referred for suspected abuse, who can blame him?

Who in Mr Bell's place would not have felt emotional? Without his and others' emotion the chilly ranks of the social bureaucrats would have remained unbreached. A word of warm recognition for what he did would surely not have been out of place in the report. Instead, it merely says "We were sad" that he could not withdraw or modify allegations which the report considered unsubstantiated.

If the extent of child abuse is increasing, it will not be cured by doctors and workers treating it as a fact of family life (often using the word family to describe households which contradict the real meaning of the word) and demanding "resources" to discover it. It will not be diminished by helpful warnings about family dangers. What is needed is not short-term treatment with damaging side effects for those who suffer but a little preventive medicine against the disease.

Why is there more child abuse now? There must be some explanation of a terrifying phenomenon that goes so much against the grain of human nature. What is its connection with a wider culture in which the break-up of families is taken for normal, and taboos are dismantled? Is it really conceivable that it has nothing to do with the impact on some people of pornography, some of which even involves children? A culture is indivisible and it fashions in one way or another those who belong to it. We need to know more about the causes of the abuse of children instead of conditioning ourselves to take it for granted and trying to detect the crime only when it is too late for the victims.

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Commentary • IAN MCINTYRE

The wandering Welshman

When Coleridge read *An Essay On Population* by the Reverend T.R. Malthus he scribbled in the margin "Verbiage and Senseless Repetition." I have been reminded of this all week by the Southern African speaking trip by the leader *ad interim* of the Labour Party.

The Welsh have until now played only a modest role in the history of the dark continent. Lloyd George no doubt knew General Smuts, and there has been a certain amount of missionary activity, but there has been nothing to compare with the impact the principality has made on, say, Patagonia.

The impress on Africa of the Labour Party, on the other hand is much deeper — one thinks fondly of the groundnuts scheme in Tanganyika in the 1940s. Indeed, I discover that there is a slender Welsh connection, too, because it was on a train journey to Colwyn Bay to visit the Administrative Establishment of the Ministry of Food that a *Senior Civil Servant* brought to the attention of John Strachey the idea of clearing the bush between Kongwa and Mpwapwa and planting peanuts.

Twenty years later Labour was once again in power, and Mr Kinnock's predecessor twice removed straddled the African stage and the deck of the *Tiger*. Harold Wilson was not a good judge of political horseflesh. The manners of the Rhodesians may

have been provincial, but it was not wise to treat them like a delegation from the Rutland County Council. In that particular competition in slyness Ian Smith was an easy winner.

Mr Kinnock is not a man to let himself be burdened by memories of that sort of thing. He prepared himself for his journey with some thoroughness. He was careful to be seen at the Nelson Mandela birthday concert at Wembley recently. His prose style should translate well into Shona and the other local vernaculars rich in proverbs and riddles — "the beginning of baldness is a thinning of hair above the temple", "how cold has it become to make a tortoise climb a tree".

He has listened occasionally to his hosts, but he gave the impression before leaving London last week that his speeches were already written. The biggest problem faced by the frontline States, he said, was "The violence and warfare and economic destabilization that the Apartheid Regime spreads across the region in its efforts to defend continued white minority rule by aggression towards its neighbours."

I suspect that Mr Kinnock is not one of the Labour Party's leading Johnsonians. The good Doctor, though not himself a great one for getting about, did once offer Mrs Thrale a thought on the subject — "The use of

travelling is to regulate imagination by reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are."

Mrs Kinnock, who is sharing this voyage of discovery with her husband, could do worse than stick that under his nose, because the indications are that he has devoted most of his energies in Africa to the Holy Enterprise of minding other people's business. He has told his hosts north of the Zambezi what they wanted to hear, rather like a junior member of the Kennedy clan on the loose in County Fermanagh.

A mind in neutral is not an attractive sight. A reputation as a politician who knows all the answers to questions that he has not taken the trouble to understand can be an embarrassment.

Mr Kinnock is reported to regard this trip as an opportunity to boost his international stature. Here's a suggestion for him. Let him work into his farewell speech the following sentence: "It is our earnest desire to give you our support and encouragement, but there are aspects of your policies which make it impossible for us to do this without being false to our own deep convictions about the political destinies of free men." There will be no copyright problems. Those words were spoken in Cape Town in February 1980 by an elderly Tory poseur called Harold Macmillan.

Africans are intensely hospitable and not altogether free of sentimentality. When they discover that you are making your first visit, they always assert that you will return. The next time he feels the need of a break, Mr Kinnock should be a little bolder and cross the Zambezi (there are one or two bridges). His speeches will translate less well into Afrikaans than into Shona, but he should not let that discourage him. Some of the natives speak English on that side of the river too — and use it to assail apartheid with as much passion (and rather more coherence) than Mr Kinnock.

If he wanted to do a little preparatory reading there is some very good contemporary South African poetry; that of Breyten Breytenbach, for example. A 49-year old Afrikaner who has spent almost as much time in exile and prison as in the company of his Vietnamese wife.

My poems go no further than a day trip and I'm a globe-trotter from day to day from hand to mouth as thirsty as ever and less inquisitive searching non-stop for another old star meanwhile my poems are just day trips.

That one's called The Wandering Afrikaner. Welcome home, Neil Bach.

JULY 15 ON THIS DAY 1965



In the years since Madame Vaucher's exploit, the ability of television crews to transmit live blow-by-blow broadcasts of hazardous climbs has developed to a remarkable extent.

HOUSEWIFE CONQUERS THE NORTH WALL

ZERMATT, July 14

A slim, black-haired Swiss housewife with her hair in curls today beat the world up the 14,774-foot Matterhorn to celebrate the centenary of the first conquest of the peak.

Mme. Yvette Vaucher, 27, was the first woman to climb the treacherous north wall when she reached the summit at 7.30 am with her husband, Michel, after jumping the gun on an official televised multiple climb.

She was followed to the top by three other groups of climbers. Next to arrive, five hours later, were Ian McNaught-Davis, a well known British climber and BBC television commentator, and Heinrich Tugwalden, great-grandson of a Zermatt guide who was in the expedition led by Edward Whymper, the Briton, which first reached the Matterhorn's summit on July 14, 1865.

They had followed in Whymper's footsteps up the Horli Ridge route, televising their climb with a portable camera. A few minutes later, Michael Darbellay, a French guide, and

Hilti von Almen, a Swiss climber, arrived by the north wall. Then came two Swiss climbers, Jean Juge and Robert Bichler, followed by Ettore Bich, of Italy, and Paul Ester, of Switzerland.

The televised climb was the high point of a week's centenary celebrations which have brought hundreds of official guests, Alpine Club presidents and ordinary climbers to this fashionable resort.

The official parties in the televised climb — organized by the BBC and the Italian and Swiss television networks — left the television operations base at the Horli hut at dawn today.

The Vaucher party was to have been with them, but they got a big start yesterday and spent the night on the north wall only 160 feet below the summit. They returned by the Horli ridge and met Davis on the way down.

In the television interview at the Horli hut, Mme. Vaucher said her husband "is a real hero for leading me up that wall".

Mme. Vaucher, a Geneva shop assistant, is a well-known climber in her own right, but she said she had not thought the climb would be so long and difficult.

"All I want now is some salad, a lot of cake and a nice hair-do," she said later.

Friends said Mme. Vaucher had made a quick climb to buy hair curlers, which she wore under her plastic helmet during the climb. Other women climbers have started up the north wall, but none has previously gone all the way to the top, which is one of the most difficult and dangerous climbs in the Alps — *Reuter*.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

GOOD FOR ROVER

It was a very relieved Lord Young who reported to Parliament last night that he still had a deal to sell Britain's state-owned car company to British Aerospace. Another embarrassment would have been a bad blow; there have been so many in the past that "the Rover fiasco" has sometimes seemed like the latest model line. The withdrawal of BAe would have been bad for the reputation of the Industry Secretary, and much worse for the future of the company's workers.

Government brinkmanship appears to have worked. Rover is returning to the private sector. It is also staying in British control. Both these ends are highly desirable and both could easily have been missed.

Lord Young was a businessman before he became a politician and his most businesslike behaviour has been on show. Professor Roland Smith is the quintessential negotiator, proud to use every tactic in the chief executive's handbook and some that are not. The European Commissioner, Mr Peter Sutherland, is a powerful and determined bureaucrat. It is not surprising that the past few days have been hard ones for all.

None of the messages from the three sides should, therefore, have been taken at full face value. It is common, for example, for governments and companies in the EEC, when seeking clearance for a deal from Brussels, to pitch an initially proposed state subsidy at a deliberately high level. They know that the Commission will take a long and searching look at the balance sheets, the overall market position in the EEC, searching for the point at which a necessary subsidy becomes a blatant nationalistic bribe.

This happened earlier this year in the case of French government plans. The Renault car company was eventually allowed to receive £2 billion worth of state aid but only after strict conditions had been hammered out. The Dutch company, DAF, bought the truck division of Leyland only after the British Government had injected state aid into Leyland at a level negotiated with Brussels. Something similar was always on the cards for Rover — whatever BAe may have said in public.

The Commission is right to take an interest in the keeping of deals which have been done. It must necessarily monitor the restructuring of Rover. It is hard to believe that Professor

Smith really believed otherwise. But he has put down a marker for the degree of monitoring he expects to experience and maybe won a degree of increased flexibility in the process.

The Government originally wanted to inject £800 million worth of taxpayers' money into the ailing Rover Group to make its acquisition by BAe more attractive. After a series of meetings with Mr Sutherland, Lord Young is now happy to accept and recommend a much lower figure. Professor Smith can hardly be expected to rejoice at this but he has a good deal for his shareholders. He has used up some of the good will which an aircraft-maker always needs with its government. But the effects of that are for another day.

The real warning from this affair comes not, in fact, from the shadow-boxing participants but from their genuinely indignant supporters. Too many British politicians and industrialists seem utterly unaware of the Community dimension. The European Commission is not a "foreign junta", as one peer put it during the debate on Wednesday. Although it certainly needs to be subjected to more effective democratic control, it is made up of 17 Commissioners, two of whom (one himself a peer) are British.

Lord Young, who has come under considerable criticism for alleged failures to keep BAe fully informed, deserves praise for his cool and informed explanation of the Rover case this week. Showing an understanding of EEC processes still unfortunately rare, Lord Young pointed out that Mr Sutherland and the Commission were fully entitled to revise the terms of the proposed takeover, since they are required by the Treaty of Rome to protect the interests of 320 million EEC citizens, not the interests of one set of nationals.

The system must, of course, function fairly. Mr Norman Tebbit is quite right to demand that the MMB-Daimler Benz merger, which also involves an injection of state aid (in this case West German) should be subjected to the same rigorous and detailed scrutiny as the Rover-BAe merger.

It is to be hoped that Rover will emerge from this process as a vigorous and revitalized car company. Even more, however, may rest on the extent to which British industrialists learn to understand the integrated European market of which they are part.

THE GENERAL CONSIDERS

If President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan really means to hold elections within 90 days of his "constitutional coup" as he promised (and as the constitution he himself reshaped in 1985 requires) he is going to have to hurry. This week was the half-way point to the deadline, but the remaining days contain a considerable obstacle to peaceful electioneering.

The Islamic month of Mohurrum begins on August 15; it is especially sacred to the Shia community, and on the tenth of Mohurrum (August 25) when the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson Hasan is marked, tension between the Shites and the Sunnis reaches its height. In the past this has frequently been marked by rioting.

The President has promised newspaper editors that he will make a definite announcement in another week, but since very few Pakistanis believed him when he said he would hold elections so soon, and since some voices are saying that the constitution demands that the President announce elections within the 90 days (it does, but another paragraph calls for them to be held) no one will be very surprised if he uses the potential threat of Mohurrum to put the whole operation off.

It seems likely that he will wait until the monsoon is past and the harvest is safely gathered before embarking on his next experiment with controlled democracy. November or December seem favourite, when the weather is cool, the granaries full and people feel better about themselves and their government.

The extra time will also let him give more thought to how he may obtain the result he desires from such an election. There is a certain amount of puzzlement among opposition politicians about what he hopes to gain from holding an election that Begum Benazir Zardari (née Bhutto) could win, or even one in which she could become leader of a parliamentary opposition.

But the failure to hold any kind of election would certainly lead to open street revolt, and could lead to the imposition of another round

of martial law. This time the General may not be allowed to remain in control as Chief Martial Law Administrator. Younger Lieutenant Generals, who were not his colleagues and classmates in college, have now taken command, and may feel that he has had his turn.

It would be prudent, from his point of view, to secure his own position first. This he may well do by repeating the referendum trick he performed in 1984, when answering "yes" to a question about continuing Islamization was interpreted as agreeing to five more years of General Zia as President.

While Islam would certainly endorse the notion of an Emir, a benevolent autocrat ruling in the name of Allah, the Pakistan people have had sufficient taste (little though it has been) of democracy not to accept such a figure. The Americans, Pakistan's staunchest allies, would certainly bring pressure upon him to return to democratic norms especially if Governor Dukakis were to win in November.

Accordingly he or his managers are trying to put back together the Pakistan Muslim League as a government party capable of winning a parliamentary election. It is a daunting task. The party's leading light and spiritual mentor, the eccentric Pir of Pagara, is as contradictory as ever. The former Prime Minister Mr M. K. Junejo is not readily accepting his demotion from party president. And Mr Aslam Khan Khattak, the "senior minister" in the federal cabinet has, at nearly 80 years of age, been elected leader of the Senate despite not being a member of it.

There is a steady flow of political, feudal and industrial barons back into Begum Zardari's Pakistan People's Party. She, meanwhile, is playing her cards coolly. She has declared herself ready to participate in elections — any elections — so as not to be accused of blocking a democratic event. Her party is now beginning a mass mobilization to try to compel the calling of polls. But she is urging her followers not to overstep the mark, and stimulate a return to martial law. Both sides of the political divide have a narrow path to tread.

NO DEBATE ON LOANS

Where is the Government's long-promised review of how university and college study should be financed? Its non-appearance cannot be explained away by reference to season or parliamentary timetable or ministerial indisposition or printing delays or any other of the hundred and one little excuses with which governments cover their tracks.

The collection of information on student loans began two years ago. Officials in the Department of Education are no slouches at drafting, as their speed over the Education Reform Bill has shown. It is more likely, then, that ministers cannot agree among themselves, that they cannot submit their competing cases and rather than submit their competing cases to scrutiny, have decided to crimp debate altogether by not publishing.

But there are two reasons why student finance will have to be addressed, however squeamish ministers are about the costs of change. One is that the student grants regime change. One is that the student grants regime change. One is that the student grants regime change. One is that the student grants regime change. One is that the student grants regime change.

The Government should not need the National Union of Students to tell it how unfair and how unsatisfactory these half-baked arrangements are. Any ambition of broadening the flow of qualified candidates into higher

education — a stated objective of the Government — is vitiated by the arbitrariness of inadequate grants, unreliable parental donations and costly finance.

The other reason is that, thanks to some excellent work by the group of academics at the London School of Economics led by Dr Nicholas Barr and Mr John Barnes, it is clear that the key to the future financing of the nation supplied by universities and colleges lies in a new regime for student finance. Free the universities, they argue, from the dead hand of central bureaucracies by allowing them to test their attractiveness in a market. Give students the wherewithal to pay for their tuition themselves and let their decisions allocate the available pot of public money far more efficiently than a Universities Funding Council committee.

It is an attractive argument. But it hinges on the willingness of the Government to enfranchise students as consumers, and ultimately that must mean some kind of loans scheme. There will be debate about whether loans should top up a grant or a voucher but there is no escaping the necessity, or the urgency of the debate. Mr Kenneth Baker owes it to parents, to today's and tomorrow's students, and to the country at large to press along the course announced when the review of student finance was set up. At the very least, he should feed the debate with his evidence.

Need to speak out on Middle East

From the Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf

Sir, I am not given to too much protesting, but I do worry somewhat about the slightly patronising tone of your leader. "Bishops, be silent" (July 9), and the letter from Sir John Barnes (July 8) with the implication that not one of us who is a bishop can possibly have anything useful to say about anything that is not strictly ecclesiastical (that is, churchy).

I and my Anglican episcopal colleagues in the Middle East (two Palestinians, two Iranians, one Egyptian and one Englishman) are not notorious left-wing revolutionaries, but rather are people committed to finding ways of peace and reconciliation in many communities involving people of the three monotheistic religions and including many thousands of Anglicans in Palestine, Lebanon, Cyprus and in all the Gulf states.

To deny us the right to speak about these things, to tell us to be silent, is to cut us off from the mainstream thinking of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian Orthodox traditions, which make no clear distinction between religious affairs and social affairs, between the ecclesiastical and the secular, between the theological and the political.

The constant cries in the western world over many years that bishops and clergy should keep out of politics fall strangely on the ears of those who are closer to the robust biblical and Qu'anic traditions that God is one and that the whole of life falls within his grasp.

Sir, how on earth can bishops be silent concerning this fractured world and remain faithful servants of their Lord? Yours sincerely, JOHN CYPRUS and the GULF, Diocesan Office, 2 Grigoriou Afentou, PO Box 2075, Nicosia, Cyprus, July 10.

From the Bishop in Iran (in exile) Sir, Sir John Barnes's statement that "the Christian constituency in the Middle East consists, of course, almost exclusively of Arabs" is the wrong impression. Our Church in the Middle East is made up of four dioceses: Jerusalem, Egypt, Cyprus and the Gulf, and Iran. The diocese of Iran has a Persian bishop and has no Arab members.

It is true, the Church of Iran is very small and has become even smaller since the revolution, but it still exists and has an equal vote in the synods of the Church.

Surgeon's skills

From Mr Roger Hole

Sir, Jill Sherman's report (July 7) reveals an alarming ignorance of basic statistics on the part of those advocating publication of individual surgeons' mortality rates.

The nationwide average mortality rates for most common elective surgery is around 1 per cent. At this rate any valid comparison requires a very large number of cases which may take a busy surgeon five or even 10 years to perform. Suppose for a particular operation a surgeon's mortality rate and the national average are identical (1 per cent) and the surgeon performs 50 such operations per year. During the first five years of a 4-year period there are no deaths; in the fourth two patients die. The mortality rate in the first three years is zero (well done) but in the fourth year it is four times average (disgraceful).

In addition, proper comparison means that like is being compared with like, that the proportion of old and unfit patients operated on by the surgeon is the same as in the national average. Such data is now, and almost certainly always will be, impossible to obtain. Irrespective of a surgeon's skill, the risks, including death, of operating on the old and infirm inevitably increase.

The decision to operate on such patients, balancing expected benefit against suspected risks is never easy. It cannot be made less difficult if the surgeon is constantly threatened by unjustified criticism based on misleading statistics. Yours faithfully, ROGER HOLE (Consultant Urologist), South Cleveland Hospital, Department of Urology, Marton Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

Cleveland doctors

From Mr Huw Llewellyn-Morgan and Mr John Mitchell

Sir, Following the publication of the Cleveland inquiry report there has been so much ill-informed criticism of Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, for whom we respectively act, that we have given up hope of correcting every error. However no criticism is more mistaken than that of Barbara Amiel in Tuesday's Times Diary.

We do not know on what basis she states that Drs Higgs and Wyatt examined children against their and their parents' consent when no such finding was made in the report, nor do we know why she lends credence to stories of nurses holding protesting children down for examination. This was only alleged to have happened on two occasions: detailed reading of the report shows that one such allegation was considered untrue and the other grossly exaggerated. It also shows that in only a small minority of cases was it necessary for children to be examined at night.

More importantly, even a brief

reading of the report would have made it plain that examination of a child's anus by Dr Higgs or Dr Wyatt involved only inspection of the anus and never probing. There are doctors, some of whom gave evidence at the inquiry, who advocate probing the anal sphincter by means of a digital examination and who strongly criticised Drs Higgs and Wyatt for not doing so. However, the majority of medical witnesses concurred with the view that such probing was unnecessary and of doubtful value.

For Miss Amiel to criticise the doctors on the basis of a factual error is highly regrettable; for her to go further and criticise Dr Higgs for being "implacable in the face of all evidence" when it is she who has failed to check the evidence available in the report following five months of painstaking inquiry is all the more so.

However, to attack Dr Higgs for indifference to the effect of an examination she did not perform is indefensible, particularly when one of the reasons neither Dr Higgs nor Dr Wyatt ever performed it is that they considered it

It is a pity to let the identity of this tiny Persian Church, which has such a place in people's affection, be forgotten. Yours sincerely, H. B. DEHQANI-TAFTI, c/o Church House, 9 The Close, Winchester, Hampshire, July 9.

From Mr Michael Rubinstein Sir, In your leader of July 9 you say:

It is the claim of religious Zionists that to deny the right of the Jewish people to their ancient national homeland is to deny part of Jewish identity, and a church which does so is, in this sense, still anti-Semitic.

Even if all "religious Zionists" were to make such a claim it would still be self-evident nonsense: they have no authority to claim anything on behalf of "the Jewish people", or to define "the right of the Jewish people", "their ancient national homeland" or "Jewish identity".

The bishops, if they represent the Church, need in no sense be "still anti-Semitic" any more than any other gentiles, or Jews, Muslims or senior Israeli army officers, should any of them, from conscience or practical concern, choose not to keep silent on any aspect of what you term "the present confrontation between Israel and the Palestinians".

Too many, as it is, keep silent for fear of a baseless charge of anti-Semitism.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN, 2 Raymond Buildings, Grays Inn, WC1, July 11.

Deficit concern

From Mr James Gore Browne

Sir, Your interviewers of Nigel Lawson (article, July 1) report that he believes "a deficit is of concern when it reflects some underlying malaise in the economy". I wonder if that is right. Surely a deficit on the balance of trade, or indeed on the balance of payments, is of concern if the trend is unfavourable.

The argument that provided the economy is growing and lively, then there is no need for concern about the balance of trade, may have some attractions in the short term but an adverse trend in this balance, I suspect, does not make any resident of this country feel particularly comfortable. There will eventually be an impact on the currency and this will reflect poorly on our reputation as a country with a stable and growing economy.

If you look at the example of

Universal pin-up

From Mrs A. G. Lowe

Sir, As a granddaughter of Dr Robert Barnes, a 19th century gynaecologist who invented one of the first ordinary safety pins, I find the present correspondence on nappy pins very interesting.

His invention was designed purely for babies' nappies, as previously there were frequent accidents with "tie pin"-like pins, and of course he never anticipated the innumerable everyday use to which his invention would be put.

No doubt he would have approved both the improved curved design of the nappy pin and its additional uses. Yours faithfully, JILL LAWE, High Rise, Cuckolds Corner, Bridport, Dorset, July 11.

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Poll tax burden on the disabled

From the Chairman of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, You report (July 6) that the Government plan to use their Commons majority to reverse the vote in the Lords which increased rebates from community charge payments for disabled people on low incomes. I urge them to think again.

Under the Government's proposals, everyone will have to pay at least 20 per cent of their local community charge, but recipients of income support will receive "compensation" for this payment: income support will be uprated by 20 per cent of the national average community charge payment. This, obviously means that poor, disabled people living in areas of above average community charge will lose out.

It is precisely these people that the amendments will help. They ensure that such people receive an extra rebate, and that disabled

people on income support will be fully compensated for their community charge payments, wherever they live.

Finally, the amendment does not challenge the basic tenet of the community charge. Under the amendments, disabled people will still have to pay a contribution to their local council for the cost of local services.

The vote in the upper House reflected a feeling among peers of all parties and none that new burdens should not be imposed on disabled people, especially at a time when community care policies need to be encouraged. I trust that cooler heads will overrule what we must hope is only initial DoE reaction, and that the need for the amendments will be accepted.

Yours faithfully, ALAN MORGAN (Chairman, National Council for Voluntary Organisations), 26 Bedford Square, WC1.

USSR and Poland

From Dr Hubert Zawadzki

Sir, Anyone interested in removing the "white spots" in the history of Polish-Soviet relations would welcome your East Europe Correspondent's implied suggestion (July 4) that Mr Gorbachev might issue "a statement of contrition" on the subject of the Katyn massacres during his visit to Poland.

However, there were other aspects of this atrocity. About 15,000 Polish prisoners (mostly officers) were held by Stalin in 1939-40 in three camps: Kozelsk, Starobelsk, and Ostashkov.

The bodies of just over 4,000 (not 8,000) were found in Katyn wood. The other 11,000 men need to be accounted for too. Would Mr Gorbachev consider offering compensation to the families of the victims?

He could also promote the cause of genuine reconciliation with the people of Poland by other gestures, such as the encouragement of greater cultural and personal links with Poland among the 1.2 million Poles living in the Soviet Union, the creation of a faculty of Polish language and literature at the University of Vilnius and the preservation of the old Polish cemeteries in Vilnius and Lvov.

Yours faithfully, HUBERT ZAWADZKI, Wolfson College, Oxford, July 7.

Germany and Japan, and now the USA, strong currency is always a symptom of a strong or strengthening economy. Earlier this year there was, as your article states, talk of the pound going up to \$2 and DM3.27. From where I sit, this was very good news; imports would have been cheaper, the attractions of investing in this country would have been greater, and the counter-attractions of investing overseas would have been reduced.

All in all, things looked set fair, but it was not to be. We did not really like the discipline associated with a strong currency, and now we are back to where we were before with a growing but essentially weak and sensitive economy, rising interest rates and a declining pound.

Yours faithfully, J. A. GORE BROWNE, 38 Winstanley Grove, SW11, July 5.

The English abroad

From Mr Ivan Cole

Sir, I was recently in Tras-os-Montes, the remote northern province of Portugal, when smitten with a severe viral infection, I had recourse to a district hospital. The receptionist asking "You're not Portuguese are you?" I replied that I was English, at which her face lit up. "Ah, hooligan", she exclaimed, and I was at once rushed to the head of the queue and given preferential and excellent treatment.

Bacon wrote: All those things are graceful in a friend's mouth which are blushing in a man's own. Yours faithfully, IVAN COLE, Inner Pyres, Upton Pyne, Devon.

inappropriate where children might have been victims of sexual abuse. Yours faithfully, HUW LLEWELLYN-MORGAN, Le Brasseur & Monier-Williams, 71 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

JOHN MITCHELL, Hempton, 33 Henrietta Street, WC2, July 14.

From Mr Alec Bristow Sir, In her Times Diary column Barbara Amiel expresses curiosity as to why Dr Higgs "remains so implacable in the face of all evidence and testimony".

My motor car insurance policy forbids me to express any regret or sympathy after an accident, even if I was clearly at fault, since that could be used to establish my guilt in any court proceedings. In view of the impending claim for damages against her, may not Dr Higgs simply be obeying similar instructions? Yours sincerely, ALEC BRISTOW, The Grange, Thwaites, Eye, Suffolk, July 12.

Credit card charges

From Mr Edward C. Forster

Sir, In all the literature supplied by credit card companies extolling the virtue of their cards not a single mention, not even in small print, is made of the hidden transaction charges paid by retailers.

May I ask why these charges are not published? May I also ask why the banks feel it necessary to make hidden transaction charges if not to entice and mislead the public with "interest-free" periods?

As the ration of credit card to cash customers increases, the credit card customers pay more and more for their "interest-free" period, in higher retail prices whereas the cash customer simply pays higher prices with no benefit. Yours sincerely, E. C. FORSTER, 13 Edney Court, Reading, Berkshire, July 7.

Egyptian ruins, W14

From Sir Hugh Casson

Sir, Even the most fervent admirers of Mr Pollard's Marco Polo building in Battersea would agree, I suggest, that Sir John Sainsbury — a sophisticated patron of architecture — was right to pursue his lips at the latest Pollardian in Hamersmith. Not because this building — I use the word lightly — is flippant and disorderly, but because it is out of date. (As we all know, once a style is identified and named it is on the skids.)

Post-modernism — or "judgemental architecture" — has the real attractions of irreverence and inventive energy, traces of which we hope will survive. But present, too, always were unalluring undertones of contempt for the society it served, and made us feel even more strongly that architecture was a party to which most of us haven't been asked. Yours faithfully, HUGH CASSON, 60 Elgin Crescent, W11, July 11.

Hospital deaths

From the Chairman of the North West Surrey Health Authority

Sir, I am bound to express my concern at the factual content and inferences drawn in your article today (July 12) entitled "Patients seven times more likely to die in some hospitals". The article quoted the report, "Hospital deaths: the missing link", published by the Centre for Health Economics, York University.

Local research indicates that the data used for this report were incomplete for North West Surrey Health Authority, distorting the authority's crude death rate of 4.7 per cent as against the quoted figure for 1985 of 9.3 per cent. The equivalent 1987 figure is 4.2 per cent.

I must, therefore, refute the suggestion that "one is 50 per cent more likely to die" in our hospitals. It is regrettable that unnecessary distress may have been caused to our patients and staff as a result of this report. Yours etc, JOY M. REID, Chairman, North West Surrey Health Authority, District Headquarters, Guildford Road, Chertsey, Surrey, July 12.

Shattered peace From Mr J. W. Richards Sir, What is to be done about the new noise menace? First, burglar alarms. Then, portable telephones. Now, motor car alarms. I speak with feeling having lain awake from 1.30 to 4 am today until the battery of the offending vehicle was exhausted.

As was Your obedient servant, J. W. RICHARDS, 17 Palace Gate, W8, July 5.

Time for a change

From Mr Guy Hitchings

Sir, Mrs Kirtick (July 6) asks what they think of next. Another mail-order catalogue currently offers: "The skeleton watch — a timeless work of art." Yours faithfully, G. E. HITCHINGS, Spring Bank, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, July 7.

THE ARTS

Proms picnic, musical feast

Flight and fight control

After the dancing Proms of 1987, John Drummond's second season, which opens next Friday, again has a theme: that of words and music, though I doubt that anyone would notice it from the programmes alone — this is very much the mixture as usual.

There are more youth orchestras than ever before, five of them, and there is also the innovation of a bank-holiday "Proms Picnic" in Hyde Park, but the great bulk of the repertoire moves steadily forward to another summer in the Albert Hall with little change.

Of course, the basic formula is not something that could or should be changed: the Proms have their most essential function in presenting the standard literature of music to new listeners. However, it is a pity so few of the programmes have the freshness and promise of the interlacing of Britten and Mahler on August 24, and a pity too that there is not a little more surprise among the choices from the 19th century.

There ought to be more evidence that our thinking about the great masterworks is not what it was 50 years ago, and in that respect the handing of Beethoven's Ninth to Roger Norrington and his "authentic" forces (September 16) is at least one welcome sign of change.

Still, there are nights to look out for even among the most con-

Paul Griffiths on the modern twist to a traditional programme which opens next Friday



Master stroke: Russian pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy who will be conducting Strauss and Tchaikovsky on August 22, one of the Proms' highlights

ventional programmes: Ashkenazy conducting Strauss and Tchaikovsky (August 22), Masur and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in Beethoven (August 30), the much-praised new conductor of the BBC Welsh, Tadaaki Otaka,

making his Prom debut in Schumann and Mahler (September 7), Günter Wand happily returning to the BBC SO for Mozart and Tchaikovsky (September 10).

There are also enticing vocal prospects in the St Matthew

Passion with Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Andreas Schmidt, Olaf Bär, Michael Chance and others (August 18) and the Mahler *Klagende Lied* with Margaret Price, Jari Van Nes and Siegfried Jerusalem (September 11).

the Lyons *Pelléas* (August 7).

Otherwise the main treats are likely to be in the area of 20th-century music, and not least in the new works commissioned from an intriguingly off-beat selection of composers: the tricky Jonathan Lloyd suddenly emerges with a Fourth Symphony (July 26) and Michael Finnissy has promised a "primitive ritual chant" in *Red Earth* (August 2), but any predictions about the wonderfully inventive and enigmatic Gerald Barry's *Chevaux-de-frise* (August 15) are liable to be wide of the mark.

This is a good year, too, for Schoenberg, with the hyper-charged *Pelleas und Melisande* conducted by the still under-regarded Matthias Bamert (August 9) and *Erwartung* sung by Jessye Norman under Boulez (September 14). The London Sinfonietta have a jazzy programme including Maria Ewing in Weill (September 8).

There is another chance to hear Sarah Leonard soaring in Donatoni's *Arias* with Stravinsky and Carter under Eötvös (August 17); and Roger Woodward returns to the Himalayas of modern pianism in a late-night recital of Barraqué and Stockhausen at Kensington Town Hall (August 3). As usual, summer holidays will have to be planned with care and a radio.

Hardly a flutter at heart

THEATRE

The Man of Mode

Etherege subtitled this, his most celebrated play, "Sir Fopling Flutter", but his divinely ludicrous follower of French fashions is not the only character whose life is ruled by allegiance to the modish. The sinister Dorimant is trapped within a system of living as compulsive as that of his near contemporary, Don Juan, to whom his carryings on are a pale and largely humourless echo.

The Don defied God: Dorimant gets his kicks out of being god to the mob of adoring women whose breath comes in short pants at the very sound of his name.

Any criticism Etherege felt for his charming hero is so faint as to require the magnifying lens of a literary critic to isolate apparently key words. In her disappointing first production for the RSC, Garry Hynes identifies no theatrical equivalent, no key to open the play's hard heart.

Nor are the costumes and set design by Ulla of the smallest help: a wall of black screens punched with some holes for spotlights and similar holes on the black stage. There's modish for you.

As for the costumes, they travel so narrow a range of sombre colours that we must have an eye for a cut of a coat as refined as Sir Fopling's to understand the pref-

Some say that the British vice is hypocrisy. This dramatized reconstruction of the "Tranby Croft Incident", in which Sir William Gordon Canning was accused of cheating at cards in the presence of his close friend, the Prince of Wales, would bear that view.

The morality (if it can be so called) examined by Royce Ryton consists of the simple rule that anything goes if you are not caught doing it. All his characters live for an honour which will bear no close examination, but which, once lost, will destroy all other values.

This seems somewhat extreme, and in fact is not the point. The real British vice is soap opera. It is



Charmers: Amanda Root gives Miles Anderson a sparkling glance

erence for this gallant style over another's.

Simon Russell Beale's plump and quite amusing Fopling — briefly moving too when singing his love ballad — complains that Dorimant's room contains no looking glass. Not only that: after the minimally furnished opening scene, where we are expected to adapt our senses as best we can to the spirit of Restoration railery, there is not an item of furniture for the rest of the play, nothing to take our attention from the combat of what passes for wit, delivered by characters who seldom touch and seem hardly to move.

Added to which, Hynes has a habit of placing two figures at the forward corners of the thrust stage and leaving them there, evidently content to view her direction from

the middle of the theatre, and who cares about those who sit at the sides?

I presume that Miles Anderson's brief has been to play Dorimant as an unreflective hedonist dead behind his eyes. It would be wrong to attempt to make the character likeable but more spirit in the playing would make us care for the outcome of his ventures.

It is this spirit that vitalizes the playing of Amanda Root as Harriet, the woman of modesty opposed to the men of mode. Her glances sparkling, her nature exuberant and her voice, when she speaks from the heart, thrillingly sincere, she brings some pleasure into a long evening.

Jeremy Kingston

The Royal Baccarat Scandal

Chichester

true that some of our most popular soaps are imported from America, but the biggest of them all is played out on the pages of the tabloids by the cast from Buckingham Palace.

Before Fergie and Di, there were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor (dead, but not yet exhausted). Before them, as we are reminded here, the Royal Family had that most potent of soap characters, the likeable rogue.

It is Keith Michell, performing in a play he would surely never have directed, as the handsome, disgraced Sir William, who goes through the gamut of fine actorly gestures and emotions: but as his character has no internal logic, he appears not much more interesting than a Thunderbird puppet.

From the programme, incidentally, it looks as if the play's title is a firm of accountants. If anyone wishes to see the future of subsidized theatre, to Chichester let him go. Gerald Harper's subtle, saturnine QC is a little gem in a sea of paste.

Harry Eyres

Vocal and dramatic intimacy

OPERA

La traviata

Glyndebourne

Following the new *Falstaff*, the revival of last year's instalment reminds us of how much Glyndebourne's Verdi cycle owes to the super-realism of John Gunter's sets.

Here the salons, the country morning room and the cluttered bedroom are places which invite a closely controlled, natural style of acting, which for the most part they receive. However, there is still the nonsense that goes with "Sempre libera", when Violetta shows her freedom of action by plunking out candles on the beat and tossing champagne about the stage. Inevitably the audience tittered.

Otherwise Sir Peter Hall draws a fine portrait of the opera, and the cast, halfway new, live up to the demands for vocal and dramatic intimacy. The Violetta is now Fiorella Pediconi, whose singing has high finish and technical



Passionate: perfect partners Fiorella Pediconi and Timothy Noble

exactness. She produces the ornamental flourishes with the natural ease of a bird, and yet her temperament is not at all that of a passive, purely musical creature. She is a woman of determination and passion, retaining all her authority and nerve in her conversation with the elder Germont.

This scene is the highlight of the evening, since the revival has a baritone of intense charm and superb diction in Timothy Noble, the Boccanegra of the opening production in this Verdi cycle two years ago. His soft strength is the velvet for Pediconi's vocal jewellery: it is a winning combination, especially when both singers act the scene to such purpose.

Paul Griffiths

Gems among the gold leaf

CONCERT

OAE/Fischer

Goldsmiths' Hall

acoustics, which "muffled" the bass end, but left the fiddles naked of resonance.

Yet the playing of this all-Mozart programme was always spirited and stylish, with only occasional rough edges — chiefly in the selection of 1791 Dances which opened the evening. But here the fault surely lay with the conductor, Ivan Fischer, who chose to break up this unpretentious but delightful music with his own spoken commentary.

More of Fischer's real strengths were displayed in the Symphony

No 39, particularly his flair for bringing out the muscle in the music. The vigour of the drum patterns and discords at the opening; the punchy and pacy Minuet: these worked best in his hands, and he also struck a good balance between wistful lyricism and ceremonial excitement in the first movement allegro.

Less successfully managed was the tricky matter of balancing these period instruments in an unsupportive acoustic. Much of the important woodwind detail in the finale, for instance, lay unexposed, and the music consequently lost something of its contrapuntal dimension.

Monica Huggett was both soloist and director in a performance of the Violin Concerto in D, K218, which grew in character and composure after a rather colourless opening. The music was never over-driven; the phrasing always sounded natural; the Rondalet's flying episodes were delivered with considerable technical flair.

Richard Morrison

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FROM FRIDAY

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FRIDAY PAGE

You can take them with you

If infants and demanding journeys do not mix, how does it feel to sail the Atlantic with a baby on board? Sally Brompton reports



Not exactly plain sailing: Hilary and David Wheeler with Samantha and Philip after completing the crossing

Philip Wheeler was not yet born when his parents decided to take him sailing across the Atlantic in a 42ft yacht. By the time they set off on the 2,700-mile voyage he was seven months old and his sister, Samantha, was just two. The Wheelers' families and friends were "pretty horrified" at the idea of embarking on such a potentially perilous journey with such tiny children. "They thought we were mad," says the children's 32-year-old Scottish mother, Hilary.

For Hilary and her 33-year-old husband, David, however, who were planning to start a boat chartering business in the Caribbean, the journey seemed a realistic and challenging way of getting their boat and themselves to Barbados. And the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers (ARC) fitted in with their timing as well as providing the tentative security of regular radio contact with other craft travelling the same route.

The ARC, founded in 1986 by Jimmy Cornell, a yachtsman and journalist, is a non-commercial rally for sailing enthusiasts of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities who want to participate "not for vanity, not for glory but for the fun of it".

Even so, the second ARC, in which the Wheelers took part, included those blatantly in search of glory as well as others interested simply in having fun. For a few, like the Wheelers, it was primarily a way of reaching their destination.

Stocked up with 100 litres of long-life milk and 1,000 disposable nappies as well as the video camera loaned by TVS to record the journey, the Wheelers' £70,000 British Moody, Admiral's Lady, joined the other 189 yachts from 23 nations sailing out of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria at the end of last November.

For many, such as the four skippers aged over 70 taking part, it was the achievement of a lifelong ambition. Others, including some of the 160 women and 25 children participating, did so with mixed feelings. Looking back, Hilary Wheeler admits to having been somewhat apprehensive herself. "We were going to be at sea for a long time, at the mercy of the elements. Anything could have happened."

What did happen can be seen on television this Sunday in TVS's documentary, much of which was filmed aboard Admiral's Lady. Also featured are Californian doctors George and Diana Lopez aboard Bucephalus with their sons, Christopher, eight, and Nicholas, six. Unlike the Wheelers, the Lopezes were determined to win. "I've never lost," George declared. "I've never come in second."

Their resolution to arrive first in their 62ft bi-tech yacht, was not, however, backed up by too much experience. Their longest cruise together had been the four day ("pretty traumatic") voyage from Gibraltar to Las Palmas. A week before they left America, Diana had enrolled on a sailing course. "When I signed up and said that in one week I would be sailing round the world in my own boat, they couldn't believe it," she recalls.

The Wheelers had a better knowledge of the sea. Both had worked in the merchant navy aboard P & O's Caberra (Hilary as a purser, David as a master mariner - as a navigating officer), and for some years they had spent their four months annual leave sailing their own yacht around the Mediterranean. "But we're really not hale and hearty," Hilary stresses. "We like sheltered waters and having a nice time."

Their main concern was Samantha, a boisterous and energetic toddler who finds it difficult to stay still for more than a couple of minutes. Her parents took along piles of magazines, toys, crayons and a plastic play pool. David's sister Lois, aged 29, and his 35-year-old brother, Frank, completed Admiral's Lady's crew.

The yachts ranged from the basic to the outrageously luxurious, such as the 124ft schooner, Gloria, whose millionaire skipper was to admit

that "one of our biggest problems was to choose the day's movie". The plan was to utilize the seasonal north-east trade winds by sailing south to the Cape Verde Islands and then west to Barbados. Due to freak weather conditions, however, the trade winds never materialized and the first week found the ARC participants battling with 12-foot waves and near gale force winds from the wrong direction followed by light winds and several days of calm.

As a result of the rough weather, Samantha cut her left eye, Philip received a drenching and Lois endured several days of agonizing seasickness. "When we were all feeling seasick, the worst part was having to prepare three meals a day for the children," Hilary says. Another British yacht, the 57ft Fanfare, owned and skippered by Ian Maiden, an outdoor advertising company chairman, with a crew of five including his daughters, Angela, 23, and Emma, 21, was badly

flooded and subsequently caught fire as a result of the soaked electrical system. The crew managed to put it out, but "that was quite a scare", Emma says. Bucephalus suffered mechanical failure and then a violent squall knocked the boat over on its side, submerging the boom and sweeping away the pole from which George had planned to hoist the same specialist spinnaker used by America's Cup skipper, Dennis Conner. With the pole went the Lopezes' dreams of winning the ARC. "I felt like crying when I saw the pole floating away," George says.

On the tenth day of the rally, Admiral's Lady met up with another ARC yacht right in the middle of the Atlantic about 1,000 miles from land. The crew of Sassenach had an emergency, having run out of cigarettes and beer. The Wheelers traded them three dozen bottles of local Las Palmas beer for about five pounds of frozen fillet steak.

After leaving behind them the bad weather of the first week, there were magic moments such as when a school of dolphins danced alongside Admiral's Lady. Hilary remembers the "lovely sunny days and moonlit nights".

Admiral's Lady arrived in Barbados in the middle of the night, 21 days after leaving the Canaries. The 61st boat to cross the line. "I didn't get to bed that night, I was so excited," Hilary says. "I just couldn't believe it... Just to have got there."

They were welcomed ashore at 7am with cold rum punches and Hilary had a Scotch and dry. "The most delicious drink I've ever tasted."

In retrospect, she is glad to have made the journey but is not particularly anxious to do it again. "It's a special one-off." Of relationships aboard, she says: "We got on very well. There were no clashes of personality which we were quite prepared for, but we got ourselves into a routine. We each had our own little duties to do and our own little areas where we liked to sunbathe."

Emma Maiden, who had jumped at the opportunity to take part, admits that she was "quite relieved" when they arrived. "It was long enough for me. There's bound to be a bit of friction - sometimes when there was no wind, it seemed as though you've got forever to go and that was frustrating. But living in such close, often claustrophobic, conditions teaches you to be very considerate."

For Lucy Hammond, 56, a reluctant crew member on her friend, Mirek Misay's 42-foot sloop, Kaprys, the voyage was not at all what she had expected. "I thought it was going to be boring but funnily enough it wasn't. Although you did get a bit fed up with looking at seaulls," she says. "I'm glad to be able to say that I've done it but I wouldn't go out of my way to do it again. I'm a bit braver now and I've discovered that I can put up with a lot more than I thought I could."

Perhaps the most telling conclusions came from the Lopezes who took just under 17 days to come 36th in the race and fourth in their class of over 50-footers. On discovering that they had not come first their son, Nicholas, bursts into tears. "Looking back, I didn't enjoy it," George says. "It was far too much work, far too stressful, far too little sleep."

Diana agrees. "I think we could have made it easier on ourselves if we hadn't wanted to win so badly." Barbados or Bust will be shown on Sunday, ITV, 4.30pm.

She who chairs wins?



BARBARA AMIEL

In a ringing moment during her speech to the Conservative Women's Conference last May, the Prime Minister took her stand. "Conservative women," she declared, "are above all practical. They do not attempt to advance women's rights by addressing you, Madame Chairman or Madame Chair or worse," and the PM paused for a beat before the lunacy, "simply as Chair. With feminists like that who needs male chauvinists?"

Couldn't have put it better myself, I thought. It came to mind when I picked up a recent edition of *Women in Europe*, published by the Commission of the European Communities. There on the front page was a photograph of our own Mrs Joanna Foster, newly appointed head of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Joanna Foster, we were told rhapsodically, "has already begun to put her very own personal stamp on the Equal Opportunities Commission. In her first few days in her new job, she let it be known that she would like to be referred to as Chair of the EOC." She also wanted to bring a new informality to daily office routine and had announced that in the day-to-day dynamics of office life in Manchester, London, Glasgow and Cardiff, she should simply be called "Joanna". It reminded me of Princess Michael telling Arianna Stassinopoulou, the guest of honour at a party for 400 or so last Tuesday, "not to bother seeing me out". It takes a lot of blood and marches to arrive there, I thought.

Still, as long as we have the Equal Opportunities Commission headed by its energetic Chair, the time may soon be ripe for a comprehensive attack on inequality in our society. Only this week, two reports were released that highlighted new areas of unhappiness and disparity. The first, which was a study of 484 dentists in Britain, and printed in the *Journal of Occupational Psychology*, reveals that dentists are getting increasingly depressed and fed-up with their work. They feel unappreciated and have finally come to realize that their patients are frightened of them. More importantly, male dentists are more prone to stress than female dentists. It is thought that this may be because female dentists get away from fillings and root canal work by having children. Just the stuff for Mrs Foster to get off her Chair and fiddle about with, I thought.

The second report was presented at a London symposium this week under the heading *Over the Hill At 40?* This had an ominous ring for many of us who have climbed that particular slope. A survey carried out by MORI revealed that most employers want their new executives to be under 40,

although recruitment specialists think there is a splendid pool of wasted talent in the 40-plus age group. This may be true, although I don't believe business actually works that way. If there's good talent at a cheaper price the market will soak it up.

Age, after all, has been venerated in societies throughout history because we have always recognized the importance of wisdom. Wisdom is predicated on that state in which the brain has accumulated more information than it is consciously aware of, but which the mind uses instinctively in making judgements and decisions. What one is really saying, to borrow from Friedrich Hayek, is that information systems tend to be superior if they use more knowledge than they realize.

The over-40 set tends to have a better chance of acquiring that knowledge than younger people. But still, we can't count on society responding to Hayek and common sense, can we? Last year the Equal Opportunities Commission, working on the tax monies you and I gave them, made a number of successful attacks on similar injustices of this age. A woman tag-of-war enthusiast was able to participate in training as an umpire, from which she had previously been debarred. Unequal hairdressing charges for similar styles of hairdo on men and women were dealt with successfully. Unequal membership fees in dating agencies have been rectified. But especially relevant, a number of incentives in the newly important field of "Ageism" have already begun (such as work on the "Age Bar" in Civil Service recruitment) and this week's report on the plight of the over-40 executive will fit in nicely. We must start to determine what sort of jobs are held by men and women in the over-40 bracket and how they differ between the genders.

Are single over-40 women less well-paid than single over-40 men? Less happy? Have more unrequited love affairs? What sort of programmes do we have for the over-40 out-of-work executive female and does it include day-care? There is a lot of knowledge here and I know just the Chair to fill it.

A corporate peck on the cheek

If life were not difficult enough, Americans are now anguishing over the etiquette of the corporate kiss. The weighty *Wall Street Journal* devoted 46 column inches to the subject on Monday,

detailing the dilemmas of people anxious to win business. To kiss or not to kiss, that is the question. Jerry Della Femina, chairman of a New York advertising agency, wryly said that deciding whether to kiss or not took up

most of his waking hours. One chairman of a financial organization growled that the next time he saw the young woman who kissed him at the end of a presentation she had made, he would make sure he kept a conference table between them. He conceded the kiss had not killed her chances of his business, but that it left him with an "ongoing wariness".

An advertising man, who moves through several different corporate circles in one day, felt he lost an account when he made a business pitch to a female executive and gave her a kiss on the cheek. "I was in kissing mode," he excused himself.

"Nothing illustrates more the insincerity of mixing business and personal relationships than the hypocritical kiss," says Peter Gorb, of the London Business School. "I would not kiss my accountant. I don't like the assumption of personal intimacy. When PR people I hardly know call me Peter, I say: 'Do it all part of the same syndrome as when a group of business men ask me to go out to dinner. I never go out to dinner without my wife - unless it is alone and furtively with another woman.'"

Some pundits blame the rise in superficial pecking on the fact that there are more women in the higher echelons of corporate life than ever before. "Women are more tactile," says Jacqui Lait, a parliamentary lobbyist. "We're more European today. The French and German kiss as a matter of course."

"Yes, it is de rigueur in France," says Constance Regnier, the head of the London bureau of publishers Burda. "But I don't get kissed in Germany, not unless I know the people well. I feel

While America agonizes over the business kiss, is Britain maintaining a stiff upper lip?

patronized and am immediately aware of sexual connotations. And there's all this business of which side to kiss first - you end up bumping noses. I prefer a handshake, or I pat an arm."

Caroline Neville, a top PR, is an exception to the PRs criticized by Gorb: she uses formal handshakes and proper titles and takes her cue from her clients when the moment arrives to shift to Christian names. "And then a peck on the cheek goes with it," she concedes. But, she adds, "I

'Providing you don't look like an upturned football boot you get kissed'

can tell you I'm getting lots of kisses". She has three from her Belgian and German clients and two from her French clients as a matter of course but, like Regnier, finds that the double-cheek kiss (in England particularly) causes nose jams unless which side to kiss first is established.

Ann Evetts of GEC Software says: "Nothing surprises me in business. Providing you don't look like an upturned football boot you get kissed. I wouldn't care less - probably wouldn't even notice unless

they suffered from impetigo or permanent dandruff."

"Getting to know the British is hard enough," Marney Hague remarks. An American who has worked here for two years, she says: "Brits aren't terribly warm or friendly - to have them kiss me is dismaying. I go with the flow but I don't feel comfortable."

Few women like kissing complete strangers, however much they want their business. "Men don't rush in and kiss a boardful of male colleagues," says Iris Dunbar, a design director. "Why should we? And who says we are friends anyway?"

A lot depends on the type of business. Instant phoney friendships are the norm in advertising, PR and marketing, which have the highest kissing count - as long as you still have a budget to spend - while lawyers and accountants are shocked at such familiarity. "I have never kissed a client," Karen Shulman, a self-employed solicitor, says. "When I was more junior a client called me 'Dear', and our senior partner squashed him with the words: 'We never call our associates dear'." Caroline Emerton, senior accountant with Deloitte, Haskins Sells, exclaims: "Heaven forbid. I don't know who would be more horrified, my client, my team or myself."

Sir John Harvey-Jones has considered the dubious value of the business kiss: "It is pushing things too far if there is a corporate culture that says everybody should kiss. I wouldn't kiss on behalf of my company, only on behalf of myself. I can tell you, it does not happen on the factory floor."

Audrey Slaughter
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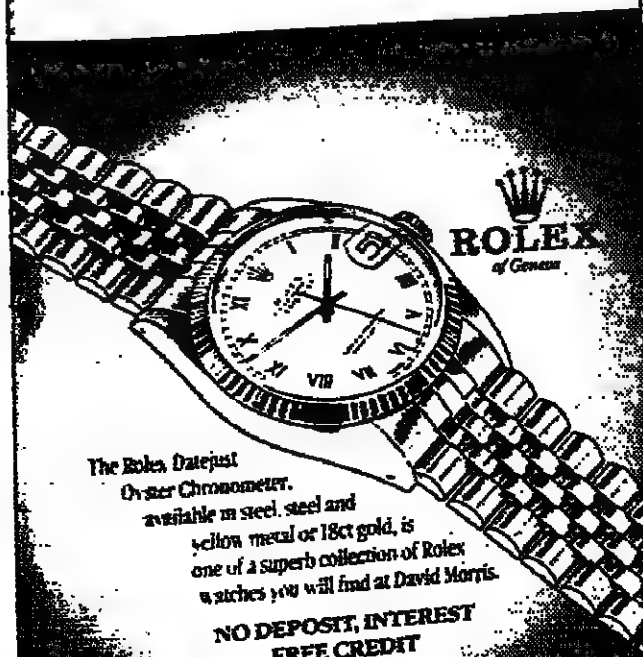
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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophylls was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the sample.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00** *Coastguard*. A pair of swallows, living within the sound of Big Ben, are filmed as they pursue their daily lives (r).
- 7.00** *Breakfast Time* with John Stapleton and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.30, 7.45 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27, 8.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00** News and weather.
- 9.05** *But First This!* Introduced by Andy Crane beginning with *The Pink Panther Show* 9.25. Record Breakers includes an attempt by the Bradman 50W Formula One Grand Prix team on the fastest wheel change record (r). 9.50 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (r).
- 10.00** News and weather followed by *Charles and Joan* (r). 10.30 *Play School* (r). 10.55 Eleven. Maya Angelou with a reading.
- 11.00** News and weather followed by *SOS Coast Guard* (b/w). Episode five of the cliffhanger serial *The 100th Hour*. The second of the science series includes a visit to Dinorwig power station in North Wales (r).
- 12.00** News and weather followed by *The Garden Party*. Among those at the Glasgow International Garden Festival today are Archie Macpherson, Tessa Sanderson and Everything But the Girl. 12.45 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00** *One O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Weather. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Helen's exhibition is held to ransom.
- 1.50** Dallas. An extended episode to mark the last in the series (r). (Caption) 2.35 *Best of British*. The second of two repeated programmes from the series celebrating 50 years of film making at the Rank studios (r).
- 3.30** Valerie. American domestic comedy starring Valerie Harper (r).
- 3.45** Wildlife on One. A pair of swallows, living within the sound of Big Ben, are filmed as they pursue their daily lives (r).
- 4.10** *Paw Paws*. Cartoon series.
- 4.30** *Electric Blue* (1979). Starring Kris Emerson and Debby Padbury. The story of Poohcock, a young Eskimo who becomes a powerful source of electricity. Directed by Frank Godwin.
- 5.30** *Neighbours* (r).
- 6.00** *Six O'Clock News* with Sue Lawley and Philip Hayton. Weather.
- 6.30** *Reporting Scotland*.
- 7.00** *Wogan*. On tonight's guest list are Mike Dwyer, Michael Jackson's major-domo, Dennis Porter, Jayne Seymour and Robin Leach, host of the television show *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. Plus music from Breeze.
- 7.45** *He Place Like Home*. Domestic comedy (r). (Caption) 8.10 *The Flying Doctors*. This week there is a race against time when a Scottish family are stranded in the outback during a heatwave. Starring Andrew McFarlane.
- 9.00** *One O'Clock News* with Martin Lewis and Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather.
- 9.30** *The Best of Carrot*. Confidential (r).
- 10.10** *OmniBus: Leonard Cohen - Songs From A Life*. A profile of the cult Canadian singer. International. Giff. Highlights of the second round of the Open Championship.
- 11.00** *Play: This House Possessed* (1981) starring Parker Stevenson, Lisa Eilbacher and Joan Barnett. A made-for-television drama about a rock star suffering from a nervous breakdown whose recuperation on secluded mountain estate turns out to be more of a nightmare than a rest. Directed by William Wiard.
- 1.30am** Weather.

BBC2

- 6.55** *Open University: Science Foundation Course*. Ends at 7.20.
- 9.00** *Coastguard*. A pair of swallows, living within the sound of Big Ben, are filmed as they pursue their daily lives (r).
- 11.00** *International Golf*. Harry Carpenter introduces coverage of the second round of the 117th Open Championship, from Royal Lytham and St Anne's Golf Club (r).
- 1.30** *Barrie* (r). 1.35 *Weekend Outlook* (r).
- 1.40** *International Golf*. Further second round action in the Open Championship. Includes news and weather at 2.00, 2.30 and 3.50.
- 7.30** *Ebony*. As the Home Office attempts to remove racism from the prison service by, among other measures, recruiting more black prison officers, the programme follows one recruit, Gareth Reid, through his training and first day at Wandsworth Prison. Plus, an interview with Frank L. Mingo Jr, an advertising executive who is advising Michael Dukakis on black issues, and a profile of a London busker called Claude who plays creole music.
- 8.00** *Weekend*. The Phillips family from *Dad's Army* go to Bournemouth for the day. Nigel Farnell is at the Kent County Show, and Bill Buckley goes punting on the Cam (see *Variations* for other regions' programmes).
- 8.30** *World*. Advice on how to feed vegetables and flowers in mid-season; and how to encourage natural predators of pests.
- 9.00** *Aladdin and the King of Hearts*. The final programme in the series of compilations from Mel and Griff's comedy series (r). (Caption) 9.30 *Open Space: Inside Out* (see *Channel 4*).
- 10.30** *Sing Country* from the international Festival of Country Music. Among those featured are Mary Duff, Colorado, Merle Haggard and Tammy Wynette.
- 10.50** *Newsnight* includes, on the eve of the Lambeth Conference, an interview with the Archbishop of York, John Habgood. 11.35 *Weather*.
- 11.40** *The Week in the Lords* with Christopher Jones. Ends at 12.30am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** TV-am begins with The Morning Programme introduced by Richard Keys. 7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. After Nine includes Russell Grant's astrology predictions.
- 8.30** *Thames* with the Keyhole presented by David Frost. Willie Rushton, Eve Pollard and Alan Cohen try to work out the identities of the owners of two homes described by Lloyd Grossman. (Ordnance)
- 8.00** *The Ultimate Stuntman*. A tribute to Dar Robinson, a peerless Hollywood stuntman who died in a motorcycle accident in 1985 at the age of 39. Throughout his career he never once broke a bone in his body despite taking part in stunts involving falling from a helicopter on to the Arctic ice and jumping from the world's tallest building, opening his parachute when only three seconds from the ground.
- 9.00** *C.A.T.S. Eyes*. Maggie's career is threatened by a stake-out that goes wrong (r). (Caption) 10.00 *News at Ten* with Carol Barnes and Alastair Stewart 10.30 LWT News and weather.
- 10.35** *Hunter*. Part two of a murder mystery in which Hunter and Dee find themselves in a KGB hunt.
- 11.35** *1st Exposure*. Among those entertaining their first appearance in front of the cameras are comedian Jim Tavaris, comedienne Martha McBride and the band Wise Men (r).
- 12.05am** *Kojak*. The detective investigates his drug-addicted nephew to see if he was involved in the murder of a woman (r). (Caption) 1.00 *Night Network*. Pop music, interviews and a vintage Monkees episode.
- 4.00** *Baseball '88*. Cincinnati v St. Louis (r).
- 5.00** *TN Morning News*. Ends at 5.00.
- 12.00** *Woman in View* (r).
- 1.00** *Sesame Street*. Pre-school learning series. The guest is Richard Pryor.
- 2.00** *The Parliament Programme* with Alastair Stewart.
- 2.30** *The Faiths Next Door*. The first of three programmes comparing the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh religions in Britain. Introduced by the Prince of Wales (r).
- 3.30** *Patterns of Life: Home Sweet Home*. This first of a natural history series examines the bricklayers, engineers and carpenters of the animal, bird and insect world (r).
- 4.30** *Countdown*.
- 5.00** *Mister Ed* (b/w). Vintage American comedy series about a man with a talking horse.
- 5.30** *Tour de France 1988*. Stage 13 - Grenoble to Villard de Lans, an individual time trial of 34km which reaches a height of 3,400 feet.
- 7.00** *Channel 4 News* with Peter Sissons and Nicholas Owen. Weather.
- 2.40-3.00** *Maple Magic* 5.15-5.45 *Give Us a Clue* 5.50 *Calendar* and *Weather* 6.30-7.00 *News* 7.30-8.00 *Good Morning Britain* 8.30-9.00 *Thames* 9.30-10.00 *News at Ten* 10.30-11.00 *News and weather* 11.30-12.00 *1st Exposure* 12.30-1.00 *Baseball '88* 1.30-2.00 *Countdown* 2.30-3.00 *The Faiths Next Door* 3.30-4.00 *Patterns of Life: Home Sweet Home* 4.30-5.00 *Countdown* 5.30-6.00 *Mister Ed* 6.30-7.00 *Tour de France 1988* 7.30-8.00 *Give Us a Clue* 8.30-9.00 *Calendar* and *Weather* 9.30-10.00 *News at Ten* 10.30-11.00 *News and weather* 11.30-12.00 *1st Exposure* 12.30-1.00 *Baseball '88* 1.30-2.00 *Countdown* 2.30-3.00 *The Faiths Next Door* 3.30-4.00 *Patterns of Life: Home Sweet Home* 4.30-5.00 *Countdown* 5.30-6.00 *Mister Ed* 6.30-7.00 *Tour de France 1988* 7.30-8.00 *Give Us a Clue* 8.30-9.00 *Calendar* and *Weather* 9.30-10.00 *News at Ten* 10.30-11.00 *News and weather* 11.30-12.00 *1st Exposure* 12.30-1.00 *Baseball '88* 1.30-2.00 *Countdown* 2.30-3.00 *The 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1496.7 (-4.1)	US dollar 1.6900 (-0.0010)
FT-SE 100 1863.3 (-8.0)	W German mark 3.1181 (-0.0052)
US\$ (Datastream) 164.58 (-0.28)	Trade-weighted 75.1 (same)

FRIDAY JULY 15 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Liquidator named for futures firm

The Securities and Investments Board has secured the appointment of the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator for Computer Systems Trading Company Ltd, a London firm which invests clients' money, mainly in futures syndicates.

CSTC - which the SIB claims is insolvent - has between 1,600 and 2,000 clients and £4 million of clients' funds.

The SIB's action was taken on the basis of information supplied by the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers.

The Official Receiver has appointed Mr Christopher Morris of Touche Ross as special manager of CSTC. Inquiries should be addressed to him at 33-34 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1EW.

Assets hope, page 23

Telecom offer

The £11.1 million National Telecommunications offer for sale attracted about £200 million, oversubscribing the issue by approximately 17 times. There were 19,000 applications for a total of 165 million shares at the 120p issue price.

Tranwood rise

Tranwood Group, comprising a financial services section and the Bear Brand hosiery manufacturer, increased pre-tax profits from £276,000 to £444,000 in the year to June. Turnover rose from £4.4 million to £4.93 million.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2104.20 (-0.17)
Tel Aviv	Nikkei Average	28084.08 (+88.98)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2782.96 (+8.11)
Amsterdam	Gen	256.3 (+1.2)
Sydney	ASX	1915.1 (-5.5)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1488.1 (+20.8)
Bonn	Gen	4918.5 (-12.8)
Paris	CAC	4722.2 (+0.7)
Zurich	SKA Gen	4722.2 (+0.7)
London	FT-30	1496.7 (-4.1)
FT-100		1863.3 (-8.0)
FT-100		222.0 (+3.9)
FT-100		87.19 (-0.15)
FT-100		87.76 (-0.04)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RETAIL		
Cable & Wireless	350p (+12p)	
Charterwell	734p (+13p)	
Plumtree	297p (+13p)	
Wace	297p (+13p)	
Geest	297p (+13p)	
Beaufort	222p (+25p)	
Horseshoe	111p (+15p)	
West Trade Supp	282p (+23p)	
Rush & Tompkins	300p (+20p)	
Barton Transport	730p (+15p)	
Aspley	48p (+18p)	
Associated Paper	289p (+15p)	
FALLS		
BPP	315p (-15p)	
Reuter	548p (-13p)	
MEPC	530p (-12p)	
Local London	520p (-12p)	
Color Group	377p (-10p)	
Closing prices		
Bargains		27726

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10%
3-month interbank	10%-10.5%
3-month eligible bills	9%-9.5%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8%
Federal Funds	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill	8.74-8.72%
30-year bonds	9.99%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£1.6900	\$1.6900
£1.6900	\$1.6900
£1.6900	\$1.6900
£1.6900	\$1.6900
£1.6900	\$1.6900
£1.6900	\$1.6900
£1.6900	\$1.6900
£1.6900	\$1.6900
£1.6900	\$1.6900

GOLD

London	New York
£438.05	\$440.75
£438.05	\$440.75
£438.05	\$440.75
£438.05	\$440.75
£438.05	\$440.75
£438.05	\$440.75
£438.05	\$440.75
£438.05	\$440.75
£438.05	\$440.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) 6m	\$13.95/bbl (\$14.08)
Dusseldorf latest trading price	

THE STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Rush and Tompkins (02601) gained 20p on its profits increase; the Beaufort Group (02301) was boosted 20p on speculative demand; expansion hopes put 13p on Wace Group (01252); Empire Stores (02015) rose 11p on a stake sale.

● Recent additions include: English and Overseas Properties 03334; Shani Group 02932; Drayton Far East Investment Trust 03174.

● Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak, incl. VAT.

Vodafone sale given £100m tax clearance

By John Bell, City Editor

Racal has overcome a vital financial hurdle in its planned £2 billion flotation of Vodafone. The Times understands that the Inland Revenue has approved what will effectively be a tax-free sale of shares in the group's expanding cellular radio offshoot.

This will remove the threat of a tax bill of about £100 million and help silence City opponents of the sale who have claimed it would not be tax-efficient.

Racal plans to sell the 20 per cent stake in Vodafone it repurchased 18 months ago from its former partners, Hambros and Millicom, the US electronics group. The price was £92 million compared with a likely offer price of £400 million in the proposed sell-off.

Mr Shelby Bryan, chairman of Millicom, which emerged as Racal's largest shareholder with a 5 per cent stake after the repurchase, has been a leading critic of the proposed flotation. He is planning to press Racal's shareholders to adopt an alternative strategy at the extraordinary meeting next

month, which will be held to approve the float.

It is understood that Racal has persuaded the Inland Revenue to take account of the heavy capital spending undertaken to establish the infrastructure of the cellular radio network and the cash drain in its early development.

Vodafone lost £12 million in its 1986 financial year, but by last year had recovered strongly, contributing £50 million profits.

Racal is likely to reveal details of the tax position in discussions with institutional investors during the run-up to the meeting. The apparent success with the Inland Revenue should convince many investors who were initially hostile. But some substantial shareholders are reluctant to accept the proposals because they conflict with shareholders' rights of first refusal.

It is thought that the company has not yet finalized the sale details. But about three-quarters of the stock is likely to be offered on a priority basis to existing holders on a pro-rata basis to their holdings. The balance will be offered to US investors. Racal's position as the lead-

ing player in the British market, coupled with the 25-year Government licence to operate its system, are expected to be regarded as justification for a high price.

Racal is likely to argue for the over-riding of pre-emption rights to be regarded as a special case. "Repurchasing the Vodafone stake for £92 million was a bold move that has already benefited the existing institutional shareholders handsomely," said one source close to the company. "Racal now wishes to take advantage of that decision and raise cash to invest in the rest of its businesses on far better terms than it could have achieved through a rights issue."

Meanwhile, prospects are improving for Racal to obtain the £2 billion capitalization it has targeted for the sale. The cellular radio business will be packaged with other companies to form Racal Telecommunications Group.

A study by Warburg Securities puts a value of between £3.94 billion and £2.46 billion on the Vodafone operations. The lower figure equates to a worth of 394p per Racal share, against a market price of 337p.

Jobless total down as earnings growth slows

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Unemployment continued to fall sharply last month, the 23rd successive monthly fall. There was also better news on average earnings than the City had expected.

The unemployment total fell 38,900 to 2,375,300 over the latest six months the total has dropped almost 40,000 a month.

Average earnings growth in the year to May was estimated at 6.5 per cent and the figure for April was revised down from an original 8.75 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

The revision was due to more complete information from service industries for April, and helped calm fears in the financial markets about an upward spiral in pay.

There was also more encouraging news on unit wage and salary costs. Productivity

growth in manufacturing in the March-May period was 6.6 per cent up on a year earlier and the increase in unit wage and salary costs was only 2.4 per cent, down from a revised 2.7 per cent for the February-April period.

However, first quarter data for the whole economy displayed a more worrying picture, with productivity growth

at 3 per cent and unit wage and salary costs up 5.9 per cent on last time.

The Department of Employment caused some controversy by announcing a new measure for calculating the active labour force.

The measure - in line with International Labour Organization conventions -

includes all people on government training programmes.

The effect of the new "workforce in employment" action was to push up measured employment by 334,000 in the first quarter, to a record total of 25.13 million. The result also pushed down the unemployment rate for last month - 8.5 per cent on the old basis, 8.4 on the new.

Mr Michael Mescher, the Shadow Employment Secretary, said: "Without creating a single extra job, they have bumped up the number of people classified as 'employed' by 350,000 - and reduced the unemployment rate by another notch."

The Central Statistical Office said it will still regard business income as transfers from government, rather than wages.

US banks raise rates to 9.5%

From Bailey Morris Washington

Large US banks yesterday raised their prime lending rates half a point to 9.5 per cent in a move that will put upward pressure on other short-term rates. It was the second rise in US base rates this year.

The rate rise reflected the higher cost of funds to banks as a result of the recent lifting of rates by the Federal Reserve Board. The move has heightened investor fears that interest rates generally are likely to continue to rise.

Trade figures are due out today and a May trade deficit of between \$9 billion and \$12.5 billion is predicted against \$9.89 billion in April.

Manufacturing set to reach new peak

By Our Economics Correspondent

Manufacturing output has accelerated after appearing to stall in the winter, and official estimates of growth have been revised upwards. May output levels were only just below their all-time 1974 high, and are set to reach a new peak in the coming months.

Figures rose by 1.7 per cent in the March-to-May period, compared with the previous three months, and was 6.4 per cent up on a year earlier.

The Central Statistical Office estimated the underlying growth rate of manufacturing at 6 per cent - close to last year's rates. Poor data in February and March, prompted suggestions that growth in

manufacturing was slowing to about 4.5 per cent.

Upward revision of first-quarter data and strong April and May figures, have given a healthier picture for manufacturing, in line with evidence from the Confederation of British Industry.

Depressed North Sea oil output and declining coal production continued to affect the energy sector. In the latest three months, energy output was down 0.2 per cent on the previous three months and 3.5 per cent on a year earlier. Thus output for the production industries rose 1.1 per cent in the latest three months, and 3.5 per cent on a year earlier.

Merger with ISC lifts order book to £1.5bn



Ring of confidence: Sir Derek announces higher profit and a new cordless telephone yesterday (Photograph: James Morgan)

Ferranti profit leaps to £68m

By Carol Ferguson

Profits at Ferranti International Signal, the defence electronics group, rose 35 per cent to £68 million in its first results, incorporating International Signal & Control group which it acquired last November.

The pretax profits rise was on turnover 31 per cent higher at £822 million. However, progress at the earnings per share level was held back due to the higher number of shares in issue as a result of the acquisition of ISC. They rose

just 10 per cent to 8.26p. But the dividend was increased by 20 per cent to 2.328p net.

The company's order book stood at £1.5 billion at March 31, the end of the last financial

year. Group annual turnover was £1 billion if ISC is included for 12 months, rather than the four and a half months in these figures.

Sir Derek Alun-Jones, the chairman, said: "The strength of this current workload, the

immediate outlook for new orders and the potential for the full realization of the benefits to be secured from the merger with ISC enable the company to look forward with confidence."

Development costs this year are expected to be about the same as last year's £40 million, but mainly concentrated on avionics, especially equipment for the European Fighter Aircraft.

The incorporation of ISC's loans and a significant increase in working capital has

increased group borrowings from £23.9 million at the beginning of the year to £145.6 million at March 31, lifting gearing - debt to equity - to 42 per cent. Interest charges doubled to £10.9 million.

Ferranti intends a launch later this year for its new Zone Phone service - a lightweight, pocket-sized cordless telephone which can be used within a 200 yard radius of the home and designated points outside. Initially it would cost about £150, against £700 to £800 for a cellular telephone.

Citicorp quits gilts market

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, the troubled London securities division of Citicorp, yesterday withdrew from primary gilt-edged market-making, becoming the most significant casualty since the market opened in 1986.

The decision is part of a full-scale review of operations by CSV. The company said the gilts business was unlikely to generate acceptable returns over the long term because of the highly competitive nature of the market.

The gilts operation, which ceased trading last night, was capitalized at £25 million, one of the biggest in the market. It

was also among the most active players, dealing in large volumes of stock, but was never among the three or four firms to make consistent profits.

The group hopes to re-deploy the 56 employees involved in gilts.

Together with the resignation yesterday of Mr Paul Roy, a managing director, the withdrawal from gilts will be a further blow to the company. Although Citicorp has repeatedly asserted its support for the subsidiary, this latest move is bound to cast doubt on the US bank's commitment to other areas of the

London securities markets. CSV has been suffering from low morale since the stock market crash.

Its withdrawal reduces the number of gilt market-makers to 22 from the original 27. But despite Citicorp's decision, Nomura and Daiwa, the Japanese securities houses, both plan to enter the market this year after receiving Bank of England permission last week.

The last player to withdraw was Pru-Bache, another US securities house, in February. Others are Lloyds Bank, Royal Bank of Canada and Hill Samuel.

City Diary, page 23

AAH lifts profits to £24.5m

AAH Holdings, the diversified pharmaceutical, builders supplies and environmental services group, is raising its dividend for the nineteenth successive year. The final dividend goes up from 5.75p to 6.624p a share, making 10.224p (9p) for the year.

Pre-tax profits rose in the year ended March 31 from a restated £19.7 million to £24.5 million on a turnover up from £876 million to £1.01 billion.

Mr Bill Pybus, the chairman, said yesterday that AAH would sue UniChem over recent developments following plans by UniChem for a stock exchange listing. AAH admitted that it had lost customers because of UniChem's plans.

The Office of Fair Trading is currently investigating UniChem and the DTI has imposed restrictions on the future promotional activity of the company's scheme.

Temps page, 22

Unitech issue to raise £50m

Unitech, the electronic components maker, is raising £50 million through the issue of 16.68 million shares to Elektrowatt, the Swiss engineering group, giving the Swiss a 29.9 per cent stake.

The money will be used for acquisitions, Unitech said. The Swiss group is paying 300p a share, against a market price yesterday of 262p, up 7p. It has undertaken not to sell shares or increase the holding for at least two years.

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SECURE NETWORK CHARGES

Plessey, NMC and BOC in \$462m deals

New wave of British takeovers in US

By Our City Staff

British companies continue to seek US acquisitions unabated. Yesterday three more transatlantic purchases, totalling \$462 million (£273.04 million), were announced, while Marks and Spencer said it is in talks with a US food group.

The three predators are Plessey, paying \$310 million for a defence electronics contractor, NMC, spending \$87 million on a carton producer, and BOC, buying a vacuum component company for \$65 million.

Marks and Spencer is close to acquiring a specialist US food retailing group. It has been seeking a suitable acquisition for more than a year, but now hopes to conclude a deal by the early autumn.

Speaking after yesterday's annual meeting, Mr Richard Greenbury, the M&S chief executive, said: "We have identified two possible candidates and are in detailed negotiations with both. In line with our criteria, they are specialist groups operating on the US Eastern seaboard." City analysts have been

expecting M&S to acquire an established business with about 30 outlets.

"We are not considering anything very big, but it must be good quality. From this base we will be able to develop relationships with suppliers. In time we can take advantage also of the concessions negotiated in the Campeau stores and shopping malls."

Talking about M&S's recent addition, Brooks Brothers, the US clothing retailer

Comment — 23

acquired earlier this year, Mr Greenbury said: "The US retail market remains difficult because of the uncertainty in the run-up to the presidential election. However, we are investing in Brooks Brothers for the longer term."

Plessey is acquiring Singer's electronics systems division for cash. The division is based in New Jersey and supplies the US government and Nato. Its projected turnover of \$300 million this year will bring Plessey's annual turnover in US naval systems, commun-

ications, avionics and aerospace markets to about \$450 million.

BOC is taking the vacuum products division of Varian Associates and will integrate it with its Edwards High Vacuum International, which has large units in Britain, Germany, Italy, North America, Japan and Brazil. The Varian division has projected sales for 1987-88 of \$75 million. It is based in Massachusetts, California and Italy.

NMC, the packaging and printing group, is buying Universal Packaging Corporation, one of America's largest independent folding cartons producers. NMC will pay an initial \$42 million and repay \$45 million debt and pay up to \$25 million more in 1993.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

La Redoute acquires 19.9% of Empire

Shares in Empire Stores, the mail order group, jumped 11p to 250p yesterday on news that La Redoute, France's leading mail order house, had taken a 19.9 per cent shareholding in the company. The stake was acquired from Vendex International, the Dutch retail company, which has been a long-term shareholder in Empire.

La Redoute said its investment was long-term and that it had no immediate plans to bid for Empire, unless there was a bid from a third party. The directors of Empire Stores welcomed the involvement of La Redoute. It believes the relationship will bring opportunities for both companies in the run-up to the liberalization of European Economic Community markets in 1992.

TSB raises its mortgage rate

The TSB is raising its mortgage rate. The new higher rates apply immediately for new borrowers and from August 12 for existing borrowers. Repayment mortgages go up from 9.9 per cent to 11.6 per cent and endowment mortgages from 9.6 per cent to 11.25 per cent. The TSB is also offering a fixed-rate mortgage at 10.9 per cent from Monday.

Dividend at SW Wood

SW Wood, the subject of a reverse takeover by Braemar Commodities in September, has reported pre-tax profits for the year to end-March of £1.51 million - up from £182,000 - and a return of 9.9 per cent to 11.6 per cent. The last dividend payment was in 1985. With the Braemar acquisition, turnover mushroomed to £53.35 million, from £13.07 million in 1985.

Whitcroft expands

Whitcroft, the industrial holding company whose interests range from textiles to building supplies, is paying £980,000 for L. Blake & Co, a fabric coating company based in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

The acquisition will expand Whitcroft's fabric coating business. The consideration is in the form of 117,000 new shares and £634,000 cash. The purchase of Blake is the company's fourth acquisition since its year-end in March. In the last financial year, Whitcroft reported a £477,000 improvement in profits to £3.85 million from its textiles side, contributing to pre-tax profits which were up by a third to £12.1 million.

Hodgson in £4m deals

Hodgson Holdings, the USM-quoted funeral group, has acquired a further 12 funeral directing businesses in deals totalling £3.98 million. The businesses have 14 branches between them throughout England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. The group has also accepted £350,000 in the sale of the coffin manufacturing operations it acquired from CWS in March.

Dwek valued at £33.5m

The management buyout at Dwek Group, the multi-industrial conglomerate, will offer shareholders 150p a share, against a suspension price of 131p, and value the company at £33.5 million. The offer is by Hillsbott, a new company, backed by the Electro-Candover Direct Investment Plan, the Bank of Scotland and certain directors. The company was floated at 105p last year.

Armour acquisition

Armour Trust, the London diversified industrial holding company, has agreed the purchase of Airfresh, which makes car air fresheners, for £1.33 million initially and a deferred consideration of a further £1 million maximum.

Armour, which has a variety of interests ranging from car accessories distribution to the manufacture of bottled sweets, says it intends to keep Airfresh as an independent unit within its established automotive division. It also intends to expand its operations at Rugby, Warwickshire. The group is forecasting a final dividend of 0.60p for the year to next April, which would take the total, with an interim of 0.2p, to 0.80p.

Listing puts £44m value on Savills

By Martin Waller

Savills, the chartered surveyor, is coming to the stock market next Thursday by means of a placing of 9.6 million shares at 125p which values the whole group at £44.3 million.

The board had originally considered an offer for sale but it had been decided this was not practicable. Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, has, therefore, arranged the placing of 27 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

The issue is raising £6 million after expenses in fresh funds for the company and £5.4 million for existing shareholders.

Savills is coming to the

market at the placing price with a historic price/earnings multiple of 13.7.

Mr George Inge, the chairman and chief executive, said a listing has been sought to allow expansion by organic growth and acquisition in the group's three divisions, commercial, residential and agricultural.

It will also put a market value on shares held by employees - following the issue, 40 per cent of the company will be in directors' hands and 34 per cent will be held by other staff. More than 300 of the 585 employees hold shares or options.

Computer firm's buy

By Our City Staff

Computer People, the country's largest supplier of contract computer consultants, is expanding its US operation by buying Sterling Software, the professional services group, for a maximum \$14 million (£8.28 million).

Sterling consists of seven offices across the US. It provides contract programming for US corporations, as well as having a software development deal with a large computer manufacturer.

Its performance in 1987 was severely hit by the departure

of senior management. A new chief executive officer has been contracted to stay with the group after the acquisition.

The British group says the purchase allows it to accelerate its US business growth faster than would be possible organically. It is funding part of the initial consideration of \$8.5 million by means of an institutional placing to raise £2 million, with the rest coming in cash.

A \$5.5 million maximum deferred consideration is also due, depending on profits.

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Ferranti's results disguise potential

After the boom years of the early 1980s, defence expenditure is in decline in real terms. Nothing new in that, but the question is whether the low ratings which have been accorded defence stocks as a consequence of the less-than-buoyant background might not have been overdone, especially in the case of Ferranti International Signal.

Ferranti's latest results do little to dispel the aura of gloom surrounding the sector. Pretax profits were up 35 per cent to £68 million last year. But the bulk of the increase was the contribution from International Signal & Control for the four-and-a-half months since it was acquired. Ferranti's underlying business rose just 2.3 per cent to £57.4 million at the operating level.

But to concentrate solely on these figures is to take an unduly short-sighted view of Ferranti's prospects - especially of the longer term benefits to be gained from the merger with ISC. Ferranti's strength in technology is complemented by ISC's greater emphasis on marketing, to make a potentially world-beating combination with important positions in their respective home markets, Britain and the US.

However, with 80 per cent of its business in defence, Ferranti must win market share, and it is competing on various fronts.

The order for 60 Tornado aircraft from Saudi Arabia could result in Ferranti equipment orders worth £200 million over the next few years, excluding weaponry. This extends the Tornado production

run by about a year, and further export orders could lengthen its life further, helping to close the gap between the Tornado and the new European Fighter Aircraft (EFA).

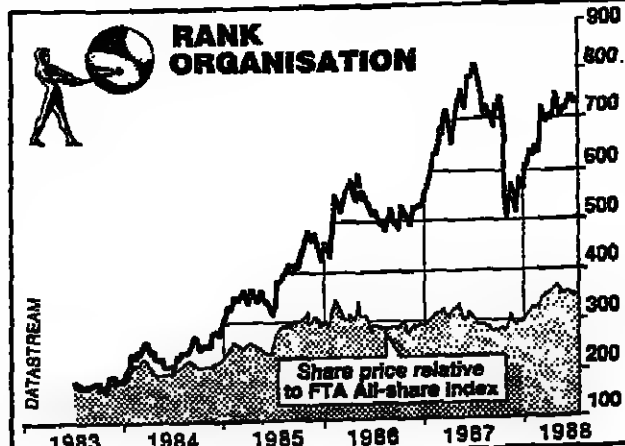
Ferranti is also competing hard for the EFA radar contract which could be worth £400 million over five years. The contract is due to be awarded in the autumn.

And to add a little consumer interest, the new Zone Phone is due to be launched before the year-end. If it takes off, this new concept in cordless telephones could contribute £50 million in a few years' time.

But that is some way off. Meanwhile, Ferranti's current order book is £1.5 billion, equivalent to one-and-a-half years' sales. This year, analysts are looking for pretax profits to reach £105 million, putting the shares on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 9.5. The shares have outperformed the market by 12 per cent in the last three months, but the rating still fails to reflect the potential of the group. Meanwhile, if the price falls further, predators could be attracted.

Rank Organisation

Under Mr Michael Gifford, the chief executive, the Rank Organisation has shaken off the image of the past. But, as Sir Patrick Meaney, the chairman, stressed yesterday, it is still a long way from where it wants to be - and ought to be. This aura of unfinished



business is emphasized at the half-way stage, where the old cagey attitude to divisional figures remains, leaving the traditional split between Xerox and non-Xerox.

Rank's share of the profits of its associate, Rank-Xerox, was again the star performer, up 29 per cent to £78 million. There is every prospect of a good second half to follow. A 50 per cent (£4 million) setback at Rank Precision Industries - where problems with Strand Electric in the US and Rank Taylor Hobson undid good news elsewhere - maintained a less happy tradition.

But there were more signs of reform. Without the Wings travel business, Rank has been able to include the holiday businesses in its half-year figures without embarrassment. Adjusting last year's figures to fit only reduced profit by £700,000. And shareholders will receive their interim dividend (up 17 per cent to 8.5p) five weeks earlier. The delay from announcement is

now in line with the 74 days calculated by Rank as the average for the top 30 companies.

As the full year to end-October will reveal, Rank other than Xerox is now a reasonably coherent entertainment and leisure business rather than simply "non-Xerox."

If only because of its good performance, Rank-Xerox will still provide more than half full-year profits, which Miss Jane Ancombe of BZW and Mr Andrew Hunter of Capel Cure both reckon will reach or even top £250 million. On that basis the shares, down 3p with the market to 737p, sell at 10.3 times earnings and yield about 4.5 per cent.

That is not a generous rating but half-year results that show little improvement after interest outside Rank-Xerox are not going to change that. There are germs of good things to come, however. Trading profits from the holiday and recreation division, up £2

million to £13.4 million at half-year, should improve strongly on last year's £44 million. Bookings are up 11 per cent at Butlins, prices up more and investment has been heavy.

Films and television were up a quarter after six months despite a dull time at the cinemas. The US leisure acquisitions are also performing strongly. If Rank can deal with Precision Industries' problems and provide some good surprises later the shares might start moving.

AAH Holdings

AAH Holdings is hardly a name which cries out "Stop me and buy one." Its operations range from cleaning streets and collecting rubbish in Wandsworth, London, to grave sweeping in Rochford, Essex, through grass-cutting in British Army bases in Germany to the more dominant activity of pharmaceutical operations which, in turn, embrace wholesale distribution, manufacturing and retail.

The range may appear odd, but the theme of "distribution and service" shines through in fine form at the pre-tax line where, for the year ended March, AAH achieved profits of £24.5 million against a restated £19.7 million on a turnover up from £876.4 million to £1.01 billion.

There is an increased dividend for the 19th successive year and there is little reason why AAH should not boast a 20th year of increase in 12 months' time. There is, however, more

heat than light running over the shares at present because of the controversial UniChem situation, with AAH standing on the sidelines ready to do legal battle if necessary to protect its share of the pharmaceutical market. An OFT report is due shortly.

But for having lost some business to UniChem because of UniChem's flotation proposals, AAH might have performed even stronger within its pharmaceutical division where profits rose from £14.1 million to £15.8 million.

However, the division is broadly based, activities not directly competitive with UniChem managed to make headway and the number of pharmacies in AAH's franchised pharmacy scheme has now risen to 50.

Electrical supplies, a recent diversification, has made a promising start: profits from building supplies advanced from £2.5 million to £4.1 million and opportunities within the environmental services division now that local authorities are obliged to put out competitive tenders loom large.

Profits of £29 million this year give the shares, at 286p, a rating of 9.3, which looks somewhat undervalued. However, until the OFT report on the UniChem situation is issued, the uncertainty element could keep the shares in check. At least £40 million is coming AAH's way, though not all in cash. The British Fuels stake is share which, in turn, will provide further financial ammunition for expansion-acquisition. One to buy and tuck away.

Alliance Leicester profit up to £60m

By Maria Scott

The Alliance & Leicester Building Society, which is among the societies examining the possibility of conversion to become a public limited company, yesterday announced a 25 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £60 million in the first six months of this year.

Mr Scott Durward, chief executive, said: "The period since the stock market collapse last October has been very buoyant for building societies. The Alliance & Leicester has performed particularly well during this time."

Lending for home buying and improvements increased 70 per cent to £1.4 billion on the same period last year. Net savings receipts were up nearly 80 per cent at £440 million. Assets increased 19 per cent to £10.2 billion.

The Alliance & Leicester has appointed Schroder, the merchant bank, to advise on the possibility of shedding mutual status. Mr Ian Hamilton, the society's general manager of finance, said that a decision was not imminent.

Era Group snaps up Shadow

By Colin Campbell

Era Group is buying Shadow GB, one of the larger independent multiple camera retail chains which trades under the Tecno and Fox Talbot names for an initial £6 million. A further consideration of up to £5.75 million is payable depending on future profits.

Era will fund the deal through a vendor placing of 4 million shares at 75p each, and pay for the rest with its own cash resources.

Tecno operates through 14 retail outlets in prime retail sites in London and the South East of England, and achieved an operating profit of £630,000 on a turnover of £11.2 million in the year ended last November.

Era shares were unchanged at 82p yesterday.

Harland and Wolff cuts losses to £17m on efficiency gains

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Harland and Wolff, the state-owned Belfast shipyard, cut its losses by more than half in the year to end-March. Losses on ordinary activities were down from £49.74 million to £17.26 million.

The earlier year had been exceptional for losses as a big rationalization programme went through but it is also a substantial cutback from the previous year when Harland was in the red by £29 million.

Loss per man at the shipyard is running at £4,300, less than one-third of the burden at several yards on the British mainland, Harland pointed out.

Over the past three years, the Belfast workforce has been reduced from 6,000 to 3,800, and the physical layout of the yard has been drawn together to make it more efficient. In addition, investment is being made on computerization.

Mr John Parker, chairman and chief executive, said it was "a vastly improved position". But, he added: "While this improvement is encouraging, bearing in mind the massive losses still being made by major international yards, continued effort to further improve our competitiveness remains our priority."

"We are far from complacent. We still have a significant distance to go in making improvements."

The improvements could have some influence on Harland's prospects for a switch to the private sector.

There are two prospective buyers, with Mr Ravi Tikoo, the shipping magnate, as front-runner. He wants to build at Belfast his "ultimate dream" cruise ship, which would be the world's largest, carrying 3,000 passengers, with a contract value of about \$500 million (£295 million).

Both the Northern Ireland Government, as Harland's owner, and Mr Tikoo have appointed bankers and detailed assessments are being made with a September deadline for an agreement. Building the Tikoo cruise ship would give Harland four years' work.

A Harland deal is likely to be along the lines of the Norwegian takeover of the Govan shipyard in Scotland. Debt write-offs and some government aid in the case of Mr Tikoo would be available for the cruise ship under EEC intervention rules, which allow payment of up to 28 per cent of the contract value.

The other group which has signalled an interest in Harland is a consortium led by the Institute of Production Control. It has a plan for building a replica of the first Queen Elizabeth liner.

The institute has sketched out its project to Harland but Mr Parker said: "We remain interested in the project to build a large British liner but we have yet to meet the principals or the bankers for the project."

Domino Printing rises to £2.3m at half time

By Our City Staff

Domino Printing Sciences, the maker of ink jet printers and inks, lifted pre-tax profits by 21 per cent to £2.27 million in the six months to May 5, helped by a large US acquisition.

Turnover rose by 37 per cent to £15.08 million. But profits were unable to keep up this pace of growth as the company was subsequently hit by problems in the US, and earnings per share slipped to 7.40p, from 8.25p.

A year ago Domino paid £23 million for its US trading partner, American Technologies, but the US side was hit

immediately by disappointing sales.

A new president of the American subsidiary was appointed in April and has since confirmed buoyant sales to the commercial sector, although industrial business was still below expectations, the company said. The board is still confident that post-acquisition problems are being progressively resolved.

The US subsidiary contributed sales of \$8.3 million (£4.88 million) but profits of just above \$300,000 for the half year.

Expansive Brunning in black with £873,000

By Martin Waller

The Brunning Group, the advertising and marketing company, has reported a return to profit after two years of losses, and a link-up with an American group in a world-wide joint venture.

Pre-tax profits in the year to end-March were £873,000, against a loss of £393,000 last time, helped by a £302,000 surplus from maturing insurance policies.

The final dividend of 2.5p makes a total of 3.75p (2.5p). The shares fell 7p to 225p.

Mr David Linnell, the

chairman, said the present year marked the group's emergence from a period of consolidation to one of growth. Ketchum International, a US advertising and marketing group, is subscribing £590,000 for 268,000 new shares at 220p, giving it a 5.5 per cent holding.

At the same time, the two groups are setting up Ketchum Brunning International, a Dutch joint venture, aimed at creating a global network of agencies. Each will contribute £590,000.



Far from complacent: John Parker, Harland and Wolff chief

Rise and rise of an NZ baker

From Richard Battley Sydney

Goodman Fielder Watts (GFW), which is considering making a takeover bid for Ranks Hovis McDougall, the Hovis-Bisto food group, began in a corner store bakery in Mouteka, an isolated village in New Zealand's South Island.

Mr Pat Goodman, the chairman, went there in the 1950s to help his brother Peter, rescue the crumbling family business.

"Baking in New Zealand was essentially a cottage industry," he said. "Things were terribly difficult then. We worked long hours and the place was tumbling down."

After five years the brother bought a few small bakeries and merged with another.

"You talk of high gearing now," Mr Goodman said. "But, boy, with £2,500 (the New Zealand currency) you can imagine ours. We'd never stand the scrutiny of today's analysts."

Those analysts point out that for the year to end-June 1987, GFW had borrowings of Aus\$444 million (£398 million) and shareholders' funds of Aus\$662 million.

But in November it received Aus\$484 million by selling 221 million Elders DXL shares into a joint venture with AFP Investment Corporation. Then it raised Aus\$130 million in a five-year unsecured note issue. Borrowings stood at Aus\$700 million.

Last February, in its half-year report, it revealed a "satisfactory" debt-to-equity ratio of 1:1.

GFW has 10 self-contained and largely autonomous business groups - six in New Zealand and four in Australia. These are consumer foods and baking (both sides of the Tasman Sea); industrial and gelatine (Australia); cereal milling and poultry; fishing; textiles and diversified products (New Zealand).

"This is consistent with our philosophy," Mr Goodman says, "that the best operating results flow when those who make and market our products are given significant responsibility and authority."

Goodman Fielder emerged in April 1986 after the merger of three of the oldest cereal food companies in Australia and New Zealand - Fielder Gillespie Davis, Allied Mills and the Goodman Group.

Many analysts believed its ferocious appetite had been sated. Not so. It began stalking Wattie Industries in November 1986, and bid for NZ Forest Products, then New Zealand's second biggest firm.

A bitter battle ensued, ending in a cross-shareholding compromise. Several companies were, however, ultimately brought into GFW. On the way it took a 29.4 per cent slice of Ranks Hovis. Mr Goodman describes his acquisition method as the "Antipodean attitude today: take a big bite and chew it."

He says: "Although we (in Australia and New Zealand) are criticized for having entrepreneurial flair, it comes purely out of our background of hardship and the fact that we're pretty resilient people. I'm not apologizing for it."

Farmers accused of spreading bid poison with a pen

Men of letters anger BAT with lobby campaign

By John Bell, City Editor

Life at the top in corporate America is, they say, not for the faint-hearted. Those toughies who survive the daily dangers of executive hypertension - induced by the relentless pressure to perform - retire home, exhausted, to ponder the arithmetic of their cholesterol count as well as their stock options.

But the men who run the US operations of BAT are doing their level best to destroy the popular image of hard-nosed, fireproof corporate heroes. They are, to put it mildly, getting worked up over a few letters.

With a flourish worthy of Inspector Clouseau, BAT claims to have uncovered a nationwide letter-writing campaign orchestrated by Farmers with the aim, surprise, surprise, of drumming up opposition to a BAT takeover. From America, where the lobbyists lie thick on Capitol Hill, it seems odd that BAT is so exercised about Farmers' efforts to improve the odds in its favour.

For both companies know only too well that approval by nine state insurance commissioners is crucial to BAT's chances of gaining its prize.

Nevertheless, the publicity men of BAT are churning out buffy press releases from their Louisville headquarters, clearly inviting the world's media to pen the phrase "dirty tricks campaign" without ever so much as whispering the words themselves. But the impact of its opening paragraph

may leave readers distinctly underwhelmed: "Farmers group has admitted that it is orchestrating, from its corporate headquarters in Los Angeles, a national letter-writing campaign directed at insurance commissioners and elected officials in states where BATUS Inc's \$4.5 billion acquisition of Farmers must be considered."

The release says the president of Farmers Insurance Company of Kansas admitted as much in a deposition to a hearing in Topeka. Mr Robert J. Biever said, according to BATUS, Farmers employees in Kansas were receiving letters from Mr Leo Denlea, Farmers' chairman, urging the campaign of missives to state officials.

Mr Eugene Russell, BATUS direc-

tor of communications, says breathlessly: "A number of Farmers employees and agents have protested that Farmers' top management is using scare-tactics to elicit the letters. They furnished employees and agents with guidelines for the letters and names and addresses of insurance commissioners and elected officials."

"An entrenched management is attempting to protect their own interests by intimidating their employees with the implied threat that the change in ownership would cost jobs," Mr Russell said.

BAT's revelations are unlikely to cause an outrage throughout corporate America. In Britain, shareholders must be hoping BAT is trying to win as hard as Farmers.

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Beating the bong for Rank: (from left) Michael Gifford, Sir Patrick Meaney, and Nigel Turnbull, finance director, yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Xerox helps lift Rank to £105m

By Graham Searjeant,
Financial Editor

The Rank Organisation raised its pre-tax profits by 17 per cent, to £104.8 million, in the 28 weeks to May 14. The improvement came largely from its share of Rank Xerox, its associate company, which increased its contribution by 29 per cent to £77.9 million.

However, setbacks at Strand Electric and Rank Taylor Hobson, both subsidiaries of Rank Precision Instru-

ments, held back the divisions managed by Rank and Sir Patrick Meaney, the chairman, said the group's new management was "still a long way from where we want Rank to be".

Trading profits from the other divisions rose by only 6 per cent to £35.6 million before interest charges which rose from £4.3 million to £7.8 million.

This was partly due to repayment of preference

shares. For the first time, however, this included half-year results from the holiday businesses, principally Butlins, which make a small seasonal loss in the winter months.

Earnings for the first half were up 26 per cent to 28.4p per share, and the interim dividend has been raised from 7.25p to 8.5p per share.

The results were in line with market expectations and Rank shares slid 3p to 737p in line

with the trend.

Profits in the second half are expected to be sharply higher, thanks to the seasonal holiday businesses and the United States acquisitions, Rank Ahern Leisure and the renamed Rank Video Services, which were bought in March.

Mr Michael Gifford, the chief executive, said Rank Xerox should continue to perform strongly, thanks to the launch of the 50 series reprographic copying ma-

chines and strong growth in Fuji-Xerox, of Japan.

Sir Patrick stressed that the closure of Cannon's Eltree Studios, the rival to Rank's profitable Pinewood, would not seriously damage the film industry. "If Eltree is more suitable for property development, that does not mean the film industry does not have fine facilities in this country," he said.

Temper, page 22

COMMENT David Brewerton

US figures cast a long shadow over economy

Today's US trade figures had better be worth waiting for. The financial markets, having gone to sleep this week in anticipation of the American numbers, will now see whether a sense of direction will, in fact, emerge. Amid the usual flurry of rumours ahead of the figures, \$11 billion still seemed to be the best guess for the May deficit.

The figures potentially represent a make or break for the dollar, and, therefore, for the future course of base rates in Britain. More likely, they will pass without changing very much at all.

The round of prime rate increases by the US banks hardly helped sentiment yesterday, although following Alan Greenspan's confirmation of the Fed's recent tightening in his Humphrey-Hawkins testimony to Congress, it was hardly a surprise to see prime rates quickly falling into line with the firmer Fed funds rate.

The City had braced itself yesterday for more evidence that the British economy was seriously overheating. What it got was not only confirmation that there is plenty of growth in the economy, but also a surprising reprieve on the strength of pay pressures. Not only did the Department of Employment announce a lower-than-expected 8.5 per cent increase in average earnings in the 12 months to April, but also,

unusually, it revised down the April figure to the same increase.

The news was welcomed, if in a muted fashion, but we are clearly in a period when good news is neutral for the markets, while bad news is definitely bad. And yesterday's news on earnings was not quite as good as it seemed.

Some settlements, notably that for the nurses, still have to come through in the official figures. The Department of Employment's revisions to the data left in place the recent acceleration in earnings growth in manufacturing, clearly most important from the point of view of Britain's overseas trade performance.

The strength of output growth, now back up to an underlying 6 per cent a year and the fall in unemployment — running rock-steady at 40,000 a month — show that expectations of an easing of labour market pressures are not soundly based.

The Chancellor expressed his dissatisfaction with the present rate of inflation in the House of Commons yesterday, and reaffirmed his determination to get it down. But with retail price inflation moving up just in time for the next pay round, and labour market conditions pointing firmly in the direction of higher settlements, the Chancellor may have to put up with his dissatisfaction for quite a while.

Stepping ever westwards

The Jingo card is becoming ever more difficult for British companies to play. It failed to keep Rowntree out of the hands of Nestlé and will not keep Ranks Hovis McDougall safe from a determined Goodman Fielder Wattle.

It does appear, however, that British business is suddenly under attack from across the Channel. Even before the single market, and long before the Channel Tunnel is completed, the invading hordes seem to be on the march. In the space of a couple of hours yesterday came news of a Swiss stake in Unitech, the electronics components distribution group, and of a French interest in Empire Stores.

British companies, in return, still seem more interested in stepping westwards. While the Europeans are anxious to buy British, the British shop in the United States. In 1987, British companies made \$27 billion of purchases in the US, and the tally is mounting fast in the current year. Already, Beazer has won control of Koppers, and BAT Industries battles on for control of Farmers Group.

This week, we have seen another stream of medium-sized purchases by British companies. Our pages today carry news of a \$310 million purchase by Plessey of the Electronics Systems Division of the Singer Company. This

takes Plessey deep into the defence business in the US, in a particular niche reckoned to be capable of generating \$2 billion of business. BOC Group, is adding to its American interests with the \$66 million purchase of a vacuum products business while NMC is sinking \$87 million into a folding carton maker. Marks and Spencer is pushing ahead with its American expansion.

As Sir Patrick Meaney, the chairman of Rank Organisation, made clear yesterday, the focus of attention for British companies remains America, and while it is difficult to fault the logic, it does suggest that the pace of European mergers will be set on the Continent, and that British business is more likely to be on the wrong end of takeover activity than taking the initiative.

For too many British businessmen, but by no means all of them, European expansion comes but a poor second to buying in what is still regarded as the ultimate land of opportunity.

The fuss over Rover, and the timely demonstration by Mr Peter Sutherland, the European Commissioner, of who calls the shots when it comes to major takeovers, is likely to keep everyone facing westwards. If BAe had been buying a US company, rather than a British carmaker, it would even have been allowed to negotiate the terms itself.

Profit falls to £17m at Mail group

By Richard Thomson

Associated Newspapers Holdings, publisher of the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, yesterday reported a sharp drop in interim pre-tax profits from £29.1 million to £16.8 million as high costs related to redundancies and revised distribution arrangements eroded earnings.

The group said that costs were likely to continue at much the same level for the rest of the year, producing a lower profit for the current 12 months than for the previous period. In the meantime, it is increasing the interim dividend to 2.25p, up from 2p.

The *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday* both performed well, with circulation rising particularly on the Sunday newspaper. The *Evening Standard* and *Northcliffe Newspapers* had increased revenues through a rise in classified advertising. Blackfriars Oil & Gas, the energy subsidiary, maintained its profit contribution despite lower oil revenues from several oil fields.

The group said that the reallocation of its London newspapers is proceeding according to plan and the first of its new presses being installed in Surrey Docks is expected to be ready in September. The whole plant will be operational by spring next year.

DPR clients may sue for assets

By Lawrence Lever

Investors who lost thousands of pounds in dealing with DPR Futures have a greater chance of recovering some or all of their money due to the suspension of the futures broker and the investigation into it by the Securities and Investments Board.

Far from being insolvent, DPR and its directors have assets worth millions of pounds which may be vulnerable to seizure by investors or the SIB, which has frozen DPR's assets.

Sources close to the SIB have indicated that the company had been making pre-tax profits of more than £250,000 a month before it was suspended on Monday. Indica-

tions of the size of the assets of DPR and its two remaining directors have been given by former employees, who said it was so successful in attracting investors that it paid its top salesmen up to £12,000 a month.

Sources close to Mr Marcus Deller, one of the three founding directors, say he was paid more than £500,000 for his one-third stake in DPR when he left at the beginning of this year.

The firm charged massive commissions to private clients who succumbed to its high pressure selling of futures and options contracts.

Many former clients have claimed that DPR put their

money in and out of futures and options contracts without their permission.

Former DPR clients have contacted *The Times* inquiring whether an action group of ex-DPR clients should be set up.

One firm of London solicitors, Sebastian Coleman & Co, is acting for some former clients of DPR.

Mr Piers Coleman, a partner with the firm, said yesterday: "My firm would like to have a go at DPR."

The SIB has the power to order DPR to recompense investors who dealt with the firm after April 29 when the Financial Services Act came into force.

Other investors would have their case strengthened against DPR as and when the detailed reasons for the suspension become public.

The SIB is investigating the company, to see if there is any evidence of fraud or other criminal conduct in the way DPR operated.

The City of London Fraud Squad is also maintaining an interest in DPR and is liaising with the Serious Fraud Office, which may launch its own investigation into the futures firm.

The SIB suspended DPR because of its business practices — it judged it unfit to be a futures and options broker — and not for any reasons of insolvency.

Low & Bonar ahead by 20%

By Carol Ferguson

Low & Bonar, the Scottish packaging and plastics company, revealed a 20 per cent jump in profits to £9.6 million at the half-year stage. Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to 7.8p, and the interim dividend increased by the same amount to 2.2p net.

The electronics division, which is being disposed of for £35 million, made a small loss of just under £1 million, compared with a profit of about £1.5 million last time. Finalization of the sale is

expected to be announced soon.

"Excluding electronics, our profits improved by 50 per cent," Mr Roland Jarvis, the group chief executive, said. "We will have no borrowings when the cash from the sale of the electronics business comes in, and we are now looking for acquisition opportunities in the US and the UK."

"Now that we have a coherent base of core activities, we are anxious to expand that core, and we are in the early stages of discussions. We have big credit lines, and with no

gearing, we can afford to make one or two acquisitions in the £20 million to £40 million range."

Mr Jarvis added that the group was gaining market share in packaging and in plastic containers.

He said the company's growth in the period was organic, and reflected the impact of previous investment programmes. During the second half of the year, further important projects will come on stream, and the effects of these should be significant in 1989 and beyond.

Saunders' paper round

Former Guinness chairman Ernest Saunders was spotted lunching in a plush West End hotel yesterday, in curious company. He was, I can reveal, seen in the pretty pink-furnished dining room of the Howard Hotel, ensconced at a prime window table, overlooking the duck ponds. Wearing a light grey suit, he looked fit and relaxed — although maybe a touch more portly than during his stressful corporate days. And his luncheon companion was none other than Sir John Junor, once editor of the *Sunday Express*, and now one of Fleet Street's best-known columnists. Sir John, it should be noted, picked up the bill, and the pair were seen passing sheets of A4 paper backwards and forwards across the table, to the ever-so-discreet fascination of other City diners. None more so than the pair seated at the very next table — DTI Under-secretary Michael Howard, who authorized the fraud squad investigation into Guinness, and Sir Alex Fletcher, his predecessor. Observers tell me no nods of recognition were exchanged between the parties.

Ahoy, Mates!

Some good news at last for Richard Branson — and LIG. According to the latest circular from Britain's number one Finnish analyst, Bryan Knox of Kleinwort Grieson, a local women's group on the Åland Islands, between Sweden and Finland, is gaining

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Roy for pastures new

Smith New Court's chief executive Michael Marks was, I can reveal, cock-a-hoop yesterday after his coup in Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers' managing director, Paul Roy, to come on board. "As one paper said recently, we are the Rolls-Royce of market-making, with a solid profits record whatever the market conditions," Marks tells me. "But I want to see us as an all-round securi-

ties house, and Paul's appointment is an important step along the road." Roy, aged 41, the number three at Scrimgeour, is to be joint managing director of Smith New Court's stockbroking arm, and on the main board. He will be responsible for marketing equity sales services. With close friend Mike Sperring, Roy will also be responsible for the development of sales and research services in Britain.

support for its proposal to supply free condoms to visitors during the tourist season. They are, apparently, particularly anxious to meet anticipated demand at the end of this month, when the Tall Ships Race passes through.



Running in

Michael Ashcroft, the chairman of Bermuda-based ADT, could be presenting a more slimline image over the coming year. His company has just agreed to replace Mars as the main sponsor of the London Marathon and he will, I suspect, now come under increasing pressure from boardroom colleagues to take part in it himself. Ashcroft, not an athletic-looking man, has agreed to sponsor the event for three years, to the tune of more than £2 million, with an option to extend it for a further two years. This year a four-man ADT team took part, including one director, but there is now likely to be a three-line whip for all able-bodied employees to start training for 1989. "We do hope to enter a much bigger team," a spokeswoman admits.

Meetings adjourned

The Associated Newspapers board meeting held yesterday to discuss the company's interim results will be one of the last to take place in its hallowed mahogany-panelled and gilded boardroom for at least six months. The reason for this is that, with the *Evening Standard* moving into Barkers' old Kensington site in December — to be renamed New Northcliffe House — and the *Mail on Sunday* and *Daily Mail* following suit in June and July next year, Viscount Rothermere, the group chairman, has, I hear, reached the inevitable conclusion, and decided to move the boardroom with them, panel by panel. The dismantling starts next month and it will be rebuilt on the top floor of the new building, next to Lord Rothermere's office suite, by February. Its semi-mental associations with the Harmsworth family clearly run deep. It was, after all, the office first used by Alfred Harmsworth (later Lord Northcliffe) who, together with his brother Harold (later the first Viscount Rothermere) — both sons of a London barrister — founded the *Daily Mail* in 1896. In fact it was Alfred who in 1908 converted the room, in Carmelite House, between Fleet Street and the Thames, into a boardroom, and it has been in constant use ever since. The busts of the two brothers, which still look down on the board's table, will, methinks, soon begin to reveal a faint smile.

Carol Leonard

The Rank Organisation Interim Results — 1988

	28 weeks ending 14.5.88	28 weeks ending 16.5.87
Profit before tax	£104.8m	£89.4m
Earnings per share	28.4p	22.6p
Ordinary dividend	8.5p	7.25p



The Interim Report will be posted to shareholders on 21st July 1988. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary, The Rank Organisation Plc, 6 Cornmarket Place, London W2 2EZ.

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Top: the Institute of Marketing's headquarters at Cookham, Berkshire, and John Strafford taking a training session. Above: Tony McBurnie, director-general of the IM.

Challengers for trade

The chief executive is in the driving seat to company success. He sets the culture and defines the business strategy to meet the challenge of the 1990s

'The best £25 I've ever spent'

Owner-managers of small companies are notoriously sceptical about business training programmes. However, they have given a thumbs up to a series of marketing awareness workshops initiated by the Department of Employment as part of its Action for Jobs campaign last year.

These were jointly sponsored by the Institute of Marketing, the Training Commission (formerly Manpower Services Commission) and Lloyds Bank.

According to the Training Commission, a survey of the 1,000 or so participants not only yielded exceptional ratings but elicited spontaneous comments such as "It was the best £25 I ever spent".

A feature of the workshops was an information pack which combined a checklist and reference book with a professionally produced video with examples introduced by the Prince of Wales.

The package, which was particularly well received, was designed to help participants to review the workshop at their own pace and to tailor the points to their own business. It also helped them communicate new methods to key staff.

Encouraged by this success, the Training Commission is looking at ways in which the marketing awareness workshops and its associated information pack can be extended in conjunction with local training agencies.

The Department of Trade and Industry is also looking at its application.

Chief executives are the main target of a drive being spearheaded by the Institute of Marketing to help British companies prepare for the challenges of the 1990s. "Never has the chief executive's involvement in marketing been more crucial to a company's prosperity," says Tony McBurnie, the IM's director-general.

"We see our responsibility as that of marketing attitudes; and of becoming a catalyst for culture change."

Formed in 1911 as the Sales Managers' Association, the Institute of Marketing, which plans to apply for a royal charter this year, is one of Britain's oldest management groups, and with 21,500 members is the largest of its type outside North America.

In directing its efforts at chief executives the IM sees itself responding to an economic climate which has caused marketing to overtake finance as a main boardroom preoccupation rather than a peripheral activity. "The

'Marketing is an attitude that accepts there is no business until a consumer buys'

slimmer, fitter companies which have survived the recession now look to effective marketing for future growth," says Mr McBurnie, who was managing director of United Glass before becoming director-general of the institute in 1984.

"Being marketing orientated is an attitude of mind which accepts that there is no business until a consumer buys, and therefore the whole orientation of the company has to be geared towards achieving this."

"The job of the chief executive is to change the company's thinking; to establish the culture, strategy, priorities and organization necessary for it to make the most effective use of its assets within the context of the particular business environment in which it is operating."



Three of the new IM Fellows who are promoting a wider awareness of marketing: Sir Patrick Meaney, left, chairman of the Rank Organization, Sir Adrian Cadbury, centre, of Cadbury Schweppes, and Sir Edwin Nixon of IBM



Previously, the institute had concentrated most of its energies at middle management level. The factor which made it decide to tackle the top layer was the realization that many boardrooms were lacking professional marketing expertise.

This became apparent in 1986 following a series of strategic marketing briefings which it ran at the invitation of the Confederation of British Industry. More than 500 chief executives attended these briefings, at which it became clear that the role of marketing in many organizations was not well understood.

Interest was sufficient to justify the IM commissioning research from Warwick University into the changing role of the British chief executive.

The results, published earlier this year, showed that despite the increasing recognition of marketing the boards of more than half of the leading companies included in *The Times* 1,000 did not have a director responsible for marketing, though the majority, 89 per cent, had a finance director.

Chief executives themselves did not necessarily have the experience needed to maintain the balance; only 57 per cent had worked in marketing before reaching their present position. Non-executive directors were more likely to be chosen for their expertise in finance rather than marketing.

To tackle the new challenge, the institute started working on a variety of fronts. It invited distinguished industrialists who had made an outstanding personal contribution to education or to marketing in the widest sense to join as Fellow members. The 500 or so who accepted included captains of industry such as Sir Patrick Meaney, chairman of the Rank Organization, Sir Adrian Cadbury of Cadbury Schweppes and Sir Edwin Nixon of IBM.

The Fellows play an active part in promoting wider awareness of marketing as judges in two new award

schemes which the institute has introduced. About 100 have also said they would be prepared to assist companies as non-executive directors.

The institute, which already operates a register of approved consultants, is now prepared to extend what Mr McBurnie describes as an "honest broking" service to companies seeking non-executive directors to serve as marketing experts on their boards.

New links have been forged with business schools through the administration of the marketing section of the Government's Enterprise Initiative scheme, and with business graduates. A working relationship with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Employment has been extended to MPs. Topics discussed at meetings held with MPs

'Response to the institute's initiatives have been very encouraging'

every six months included the impact of marketing on jobs, on national economic prosperity and share of world trade.

Discussions have taken place with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to see whether senior industrialists among the institute's 4,000 overseas members could be employed to help improve export intelligence.

Mr McBurnie is very encouraged by the response which top executives are giving to the institute's initiatives. "We quickly found we were pushing at an open door," he says.

However, he is also mindful of the other aims which in addition to increasing the understanding of marketing include: developing the body of marketing knowledge; enhancing the professionalism of people involved in

Firms snap up the Enterprise aid package

Evidence that small and medium-sized businesses are as interested in improving marketing expertise as bigger companies is demonstrated by the popularity of the marketing section of the Government's new Enterprise package.

This encourages firms employing up to 500 people to improve performance by using external consultants. Demand for marketing assistance which the Department of Trade and Industry first offered under the title of "Support for Marketing" was four times greater than expected.

According to one senior civil servant, this particular scheme "took off like a rocket" when it was first introduced in September 1986 and demand has continued at a high level ever since.

The IM is one of four organizations connected to manage the Enterprise Initiative scheme; the others are the

four business schools: Cranfield Institute of Technology, Warwick University, Salford University Business Services or Strathclyde University which it has appointed as regional sub-contractors. All four have worked on the programme since 1986 and have built up extensive experience as a result.

They in turn appoint a consultancy firm which must satisfy two requirements. First, the practice must have been established for at least two years. Second, it must provide four satisfactory business references for work undertaken on its own account.

Examples of how some of the 1,700 companies who have used the scheme, which pays at least half the cost of five-15 days' consultancy work, are included in the first issue of *Marketing Business*, the institute's new journal.

For Amtec Laboratories it



Watching brief: the studio control room at the Cookham HQ

Design Council, the Production and Engineering Research Association and 3i Enterprise Support.

All initial enquiries are channelled through the DTI which then arranges for senior industrialists employed as "enterprise counsellors" to visit the firm. These spend up to two days carrying out a business review with the firm to help identify which part of the scheme would be most useful for the firm's particular needs. They will also make a follow-up check once the work has been completed.

Once a counsellor recommends help with a marketing project, the IM contacts one of

focused "the minds and energy of senior staff on key markets". For Racom it helped review market opportunities and prepare a strategic marketing plan.

Phil O'Neill, managing director of Racom, said: "Now we know precisely where we are going."

The Gracechurch Container Line said that improvements which had resulted had led to a 20 per cent rise in sales within a year.

For the directors of Biobase, the consultant's work helped to establish credibility with suppliers as well as research a new product idea.

The making of Britain's new young marketeers

Having had an examination syllabus since 1928, the Institute of Marketing has always regarded education as important to maintaining professional marketing standards. The most recent development has been in schools, where for the past two years it has been providing a Foundation Certificate to pupils at two schools in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Eventually, it hopes to get marketing established as an A-level subject in the national school curriculum. It sees this as not only offering advantages for future employers but in giving young people themselves a valuable "life skill".

In 1980, the decision was made that all entrants must hold the institute's Diploma in Marketing, Certificate in Marketing, Certificate in Sales Management or an equivalent.

At that time, about 75 per cent of the members had a marketing or academic qualification. Today, the proportion is nearer 90 per cent.

The number of students who register with the institute



Diploma chief: Bill Betts has shown a steady rise each year. In 1987/88 there were 7,210 registrations, an increase of 12 per cent on the previous year.

Seen as particularly significant has been a big increase in the number of business degree students, many of whom will be future industry leaders, who are enrolling for the diploma. This year there were 1,063, compared with 220 three years ago.

Bill Betts, the manager of diploma studies at the in-

stitute, says there are three reasons why students enroll: first, because the courses are specifically orientated towards marketing and recognized as such by employers; second, because they wish to gain marketing knowledge; and third, to enable them to become a member of the institute. A survey of members showed that 75 per cent consider membership enhances personal status.

Education courses for the certificate and diploma are offered by business colleges, polytechnics, higher educational establishments and by correspondence colleges.

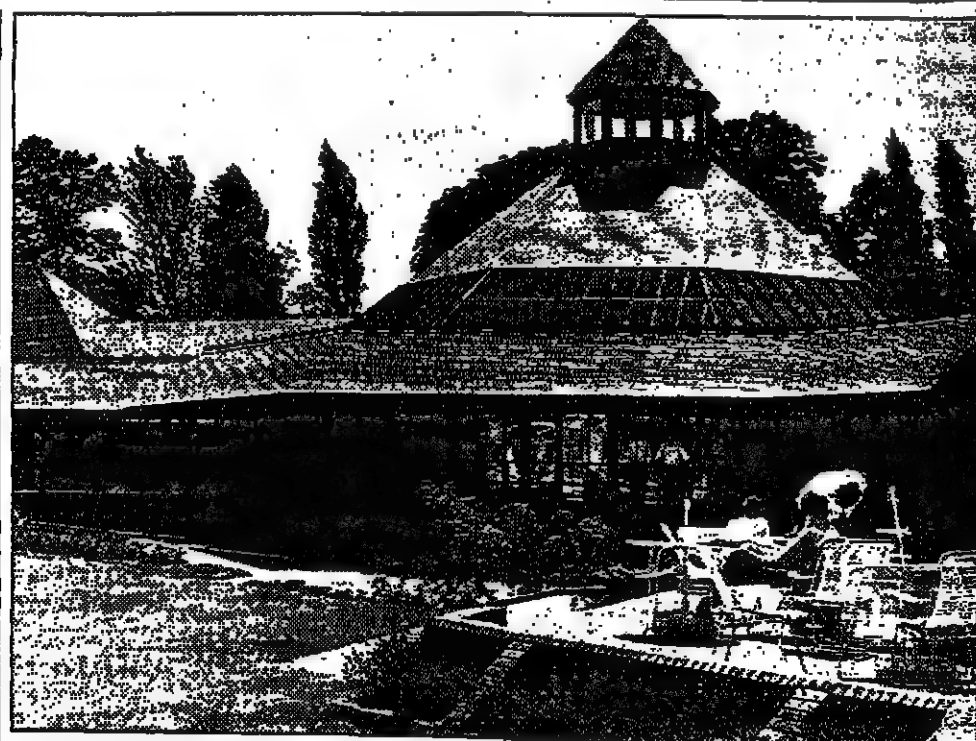
As part of a decision to encourage stronger links with academia, the institute has not only formed a special interest group of 300 professional educationalists but set up a register of part-time lecturers.

These have been drawn from marketing practitioners from various parts of the country to provide a pool of suitable practitioners prepared to teach on IM courses when the need arises.

The educational qualifications of Britain's chief executives

AGE	DEGREE	POSTGRADS	PROFESSIONAL	HND	NOS
under 35	67%	33%	0%	33%	3
35-44	63%	31%	35%	9%	80
45-54	51%	21%	46%	8%	170
55-65	54%	18%	59%	13%	97
65+	35%	17%	50%	0%	6
TOTAL	54%	22%	47%	10%	356

Source: study by Warwick University commissioned by the Institute of Marketing



Relaxing: between sessions there are nine acres of grounds close to the Thames to enjoy

Training for Europe

Since 1971, the Institute of Marketing has run its own 80-bed residential training college at its headquarters in Cookham, Berkshire. This offers a wide range of short intensive courses to both marketing and non-marketing personnel.

Demand has risen steadily and last year more than 8,500 delegates attended, an increase of six per cent on the previous year.

Courses are designed for all levels of management and recent years have seen a growing emphasis on those provided for leading executives. The longest of these is the two-week strategic marketing management course, held at Templeton College, Oxford, in August. It is intended for experienced executives who have learnt the

European habit of blocking out chunks of time throughout the year for personal training.

Two more recent courses for senior executives are a three-day senior programme held in association with Warwick University, "Marketing for Directors and Senior Man-

'We value the IM's guidance'

agers", and a two-day workshop held in association with the Cranfield School of Management, "Marketing Directors Workshop".

Another growth area has been in courses designed to meet the requirements of a particular company. John Flynn, manager of marketing development at

ICI, is one user of this service. He says: "We value the institute's guidance in maintaining overall professional standards and its advice in helping us to design a comprehensive internal marketing development programme which involves about 700 people and an annual budget of more than £1 million."

Preparation for the single European market in 1992 is likely to strengthen future demand for international marketing training. "The single market will make Europe a tougher market for UK companies," warns Tony McBurnie, the IM's director general. "They will need to develop a readiness to adapt a fast-changing market environment and very aggressive international competitors."

The Institute of Marketing



Marketing means Business

IM Register of Marketing Consultants

The Institute of Marketing's Register of Marketing Consultants has been formed to provide a much needed and authoritative source of practical assistance to British Industry.

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If you think a marketing consultancy could help your company please complete and send the coupon requesting our leaflet to: IM Register of Marketing Consultants, Institute of Marketing, Moor Hall, Cookham, Berks. SL6 9QH, or telephone Bourne End (062 85) 24922.



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Under the newly-launched Financial and Information Systems Initiative, the DTI will pay 50% of the costs of between 5 and 15 man-days of consultancy. In Assisted Areas and Urban Programme Areas DTI will pay two-thirds of the cost.

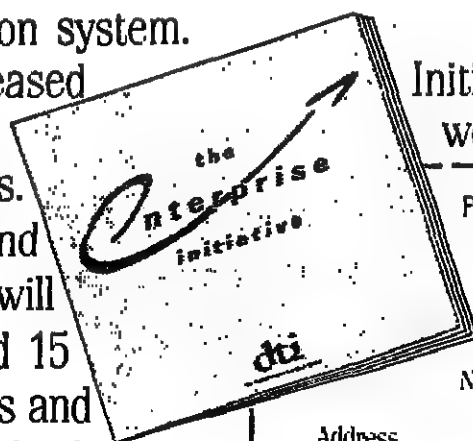
It can cover expert advice on budget control, accountancy records, office automation and the use

of external data services. And it's available to service and manufacturing businesses that are independent or part of a group with under 500 employees.

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*This firm has no connection whatsoever with St. Ives Group plc.

New office rents reflect shortage

Anticipating that the high rental levels in central London may force companies to consider relocation, St Quintin concludes: "Even if only a small percentage of these companies do look to relocate, the pressure on the decentralized market will be enormous."



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Performance: 0-62mph 0.5 secs, max speed 121 mph	Length: Internal 14.3 ft, overall 19.3 ft.
Official consumption: Urban 33.2 mpg; 56 mpg, 77 mpg; 75 mph, 42.8 mpg. Length: 15.3 feet.	Weight: Unladen 14.9 cwt, max laden 17.7 cwt.
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	Layout: Centre kitchen.

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Law Report July 15 1988 House of Lords

D. H. Edmonds Ltd v East Sussex Police Authority

Where "tumultuously" was applied to an assembly of persons, that assembly should be of considerable size and should be an excited and emotionally agitated assembly and generally, although not necessarily, should be accompanied by noise.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Balcombe and Sir Rousley

Cunningham-Bruce) held on July 6 in dismissing the appeal of D. H. Edmonds Ltd, jewelers, in their claim for compensation against the police authority, from Kenneth Jones who on November 6, 1967 had held that it was three or four robbers, who had committed a crime at the premises at the appellants' robbery in the Lanes of Brighton on August 2, 1964, were not assembled "tumultuously".

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England opt for new leadership in Cowdrey style

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

After 10 days of debate and indecision, England's selectors stepped boldly into the unknown yesterday when they named Christopher Cowdrey as captain for the two remaining Tests of a so far disappointing series against the West Indies.

In setting on a player whose five Tests, four years ago, brought very modest returns and whose only self-doubts in the game concern his own ability to exist at the highest level, the selectors have gambled extravagantly on the qualities of leadership with which Cowdrey has dragged a mediocre Kent team to the top of the championship.

Cowdrey, aged 30, is initially in charge for only two Tests but, having taken the plunge, one hopes the selectors are already committed to him for the Lord's Test against Sri Lanka and the subsequent tour of India.

England's third captain of the summer will, however, have neither of his two immediate predecessors playing under him at Headingley next week.

John Emburey has lost the job largely because he cannot justify a place in the side and Mike Gatting, sacked in a stench of scandal five weeks ago, has now withdrawn indefinitely from Test cricket.

Gatting's decision, announced four hours before the captaincy yesterday, is no great surprise to any who watched his return to the side

at Old Trafford. He was out for nought and four and, soon after the game, he confessed to the team manager, Mickie Stewart, that he did not feel in the right frame of mind.

At his best, Gatting would still be an automatic selection in any England side but in his currently confused state he has probably made a wise decision. Paradoxically, it may also be easier for Cowdrey to take over a team missing its previously dominant characters.

Even so, his will not be an easy task nor, in its early stages, an enviable one. Cynics will inevitably savour the undertones of Peter May appointing his own godson as captain. Fortunately, Christopher himself will see the funny side: his healthy sense of humour is sometimes turned cheerfully on himself as it was on his tour of India in 1984 when, at the players' Christmas party, he parodied an imaginary conversation in which May told his father of his selection.

Such irreverence will help him overcome any illogical personal resentments and concentrate on the job in hand, which is quite daunting enough anyway. As May, the chairman of selectors, put it with delicious understatement: "Our performances in the series to date have been very disappointing but we believe that Cowdrey's style of

leadership is what is now required.

That style embraces strength of character, positive thinking and an evident enthusiasm for all he does. And outstanding fielder, always a valuable attribute for a captain, Cowdrey likes to involve himself purposefully in every facet of the game and his youthful relish has undoubtedly led Kent to play well above themselves during a run of seven wins in eight championship games.

Cowdrey took over the county captaincy in 1985. It was not a universally popular appointment — in fact, it divided the dressing room and the membership. Chris Tavaré, the outgoing captain, had a loyal following which included the England fast bowler Graham Dilley, later to leave Kent for Worcestershire.

Whatever the merits of Tavaré's dismissal, however, it says much for Cowdrey's personality and resolve that he now has a thoroughly united team behind him.

He is gregarious in a fashion his father, Colin, never was. He has inherited a little of Colin's classical batting talent but he has maximized his resources both as batsman and seam bowler. The Cowdreys now become only the second father and son to captain England, following Freddie and George Mann.

This is also the first time since 1966 that England have had three captains in a home series. The opposition then was also the West Indies and the second of the captains, sacked before the final Test, was Colin Cowdrey.

The news will be a great fillip for Cowdrey senior, who has recently been in poor health again. It must also be seen as good news for cricket, representing a refreshing in-temper by the selectors to dismantle the weary old guard which, no matter their potential, has grown accustomed to be under the West Indian heel.

It is bad luck on Emburey, whose caretaker position was always a hopeless task. Once he had been discounted, the only other serious candidate from inside the present team was Graham Gooch, whose unwillingness to tour made him an unsatisfactorily short term prospect.

Kim Barnett and Mark Nicholas will both have been discussed during innumerable selectorial conferences but Cowdrey's advantage is that things have happened for him at the right time... or maybe, let us hope, he has made them happen.

Cowdrey is to fill all-rounder's role

By Steve Acteson

Cowdrey said last night: "Everyone has self-doubts. I never really believed I would make it as a player. I used to look at all the great names around and think 'I'll never be one of them.' I wasn't even sure if I wanted cricket to be my profession, no matter how much I loved playing the game."

"Equally, I have had no lifelong ambition to captain England. If you had pinned me against a wall I would have had to admit that it was an ambition, but my greatest ambition is to lead Kent to a championship title."

"Obviously, being awarded the England captaincy is the greatest accolade a player can hope for but it was something I never really wanted to think about. I have always taken my career step by step."

"I have known Mickie Stewart a long time and we have always got on very well."

I'm looking forward to working alongside him."

Cowdrey rang his father, Colin, from his car en route to Lord's yesterday and said: "I told him I was off to see an old friend of his. When he asked me who I said 'Mr May'. He was absolutely delighted. He's had a virus and this has really perked him up."

He dropped a hint about possible changes at Headingley when he said: "You may well see some new faces coming in, apart from me. I think this is a very good time to be coming in as captain, but I have no fancy tricks or clever ideas up my sleeve as to how to beat the West Indies."

"I expect to play as an all-rounder rather than just as a batsman, and I have to prove that I'm a good enough player to captain England in the next two Tests and to show that the team has improved."

Call for Carter's resignation

David Evans, the chairman of Luton Town Football Club and a Conservative Member of Parliament, yesterday said that Philip Carter, the Football League president, had "betrayed the League and should be removed as soon as possible."

Evans, speaking at a launch of a plan for a 90,000-seat stadium for Luton, was referring to the role of Carter, who is chairman of Everton, in the threatened breakaway by 10 leading clubs, including Everton, from the League.

Evans also attacked David Dein, Arsenal vice-chairman and a member of the League's management committee, who has also been involved in the "super league" discussions with ITV. Evans said: "Dein has always been too clever by

half and he should be voted out, along with Carter."

"Now they say they have got us more money from television than we had before — but why didn't they do that with the other Football League clubs?"

● **FRANKFURT** — Lajos Detari, the Hungarian midfielder, cost his new Greek side Olympiakos more than £15 million (about £4.8 million). Eintracht Frankfurt, his former club, disclosed yesterday (Reuters reports).

It is the second highest transfer on record, about £300,000 short of the figure AC Milan paid PSV Eindhoven for Dutchman Ruud Gullit in March 1987.

● **GENEVA** — Michel Gonzalez, the Real Madrid defend-

er, has had a nine-match ban reduced to three by UEFA's appeal board, which also reduced a three-match ban on Real's Mexican forward, Hugo Sanchez, to one match (Reuters reports).

● **SYDNEY** — Australia yesterday beat Argentina, the World Cup holders, 4-1 to reach the final of the Bicentennial Gold Cup tournament (Reuters reports).

Third attempt

England play Australia for third place and the United States meet Canada for the title in the finals of the men's Lacrosse under-19 world series at Adelaide tomorrow.

Winterbottom named for S African tour

Johannesburg — Peter Winterbottom, the England international rugby union forward, and six Australian players, including Nick Farr-Jones, the national team captain, are to join the World XV tour of South Africa due to start next month, the South African Press Association (SAPA) said yesterday (Reuters reports).

SAPA, quoting unnamed sources in Brisbane, where the Wallabies are preparing for the second international against New Zealand, named the other Australians as David Campese, Ian Williams, Michael Lynagh, Steve Cutler and Simon Poidevin.

SAPA said the tour manager would also be an Australian, former international Charles Wilson, the manager of the successful Wallabies side which toured Britain and Ireland in 1984.

South African rugby officials refused to confirm the reports, but they said the tour would still go ahead despite

the fact that most rugby nations have either banned or actively discouraged their players from taking part.

Winterbottom missed England's recent tour of Australia and Fiji because he is playing in South Africa this summer — with the permission of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) — for, among others, Transvaal. However, it has been RFU policy not to pass on South African invitations to English players.

The Australian RFU decided in April to allow its players to make up their own minds if they received invitations from South Africa. The union reluctantly follows the Australian government's ruling against official sporting links with racially-segregated South Africa.

There are fears that if the tour goes ahead, it may prompt black African nations to boycott the Seoul Olympics in protest, just as they did in 1976 over New Zealand's rugby links with the republic.

Stormy opening to 117th Open championship



Can't see the wood: Ballesteros in a rare spot of trouble at the 14th (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Ballesteros breezes in while rest struggle against wind

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

Severiano Ballesteros yesterday produced spectacular evidence of his extraordinary skill by leading the 117th Open golf championship with a four-under-par first round of 67 on the wind-blown links of Royal Lytham and St Annes.

The Spaniard looked immediately at home as he defied the elements to steer a successful course on the historic turf where, in 1979, he so emotionally won the first of his four major championships.

What is more, early on Ballesteros moved ahead of Brad Faxon (69), of the United States, and the Australians, Noel Ratcliffe and Peter Senior, Don Pooley, of the United States, and Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, who all took 70. This was in spite of being compelled to take a penalty drop on two occasions. Moreover, he missed two clear opportunities for birdies from inside eight feet.

It represented an astonishing performance on a day when the strength of the wind blew a host of his rivals, including the United States Open champion, Curtis Strange, so seriously off course that they must surely now accept a place among the supporting cast.

Even Nick Faldo became a victim of the bunker-strewn course when he twice visited the sand at the 17th, where he eventually marked a six on his card. Faldo had remained in touch with Ballesteros, even drawing alongside him at one point at four under par, so his disappointment was compounded when he took three putts on the 18th green, where on Sunday he hopes to complete a successful defence.

That is certainly not beyond his capabilities, especially as the 71 with which he has begun represents a creditable



THE OPEN

score, but the problem that he now faces, along with the rest of the field, is in dislodging Ballesteros from the lead.

Faldo said: "It is a long championship, and the weather forecast is not good. There'll be a few screw-ups and I've made mine already. I'm not allowed any more."

Ballesteros, who last savoured the sweetness of a truly important individual success

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	208	3	10	334	4
2	437	4	11	342	5
3	437	4	12	198	3
4	393	4	13	342	4
5	212	3	14	445	4
6	420	5	15	445	4
7	549	5	16	357	4
8	394	4	17	482	4
9	184	3	18	412	4
Out 3,302 35			In 3,555 36		
Total yardage 6,857			Par 71		

BEST OF THE DAY

S BALLESTEROS (67)
Out: 2-3-3 4-3-4 4-4-3 = 35
In: 4-5-3 4-5-4 4-5-5 = 37
* Solid denotes scores better than par; bold denotes scores worse than par.

birdie at the 13th, which took him to three under par.

Sandy Lyle and Bernhard Langer were others attempting to remain in touch, although they had no chance of overhauling the Spaniard.

Quite simply, it was a day when the majority of players looked upon par as an immense blessing. David Frost, of South Africa, and David J Russell, of Derbyshire, were among those to join Faldo on 71. Russell was in the first group to tee off, and he collected three successive birdies from the sixth, moved into a tie with Faldo (549 yards downwind).

His nerves might have been settled by pars at the ninth and

Those who suffered included Jack Nicklaus, although his 75 probably reflected the par on a day when the sun did not descend to appear until 6 p.m. and then only briefly, and Ray Floyd, Mark Calcavecchia and Ian Woosnam, each of whom took 76. Barry Lane laboured to a 78.

Visits planned

Johannesburg (AP) — Cricket administrators, former Test captains and players have agreed to visit South Africa during the centenary of the South African Cricket Union next March, the managing director, Al Bacher, said after a visit to the United Kingdom.

Washington, (AFP) — Prince Charles Williams, of the United States, is to defend his International Boxing Federation light-heavyweight title against Ruffino Angulo, of France, in Bordeaux on October 14. It will be Williams' second defence.

Defensive action

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FIRST ROUND SCORES

(Great Britain and Ireland unless stated)

● After the first 36 holes, the field will be reduced to the leading 70 and ties.

67 S BALLESTEROS (Sp) P SENIOR (Aus) N RATCLIFFE (Aus) R CHAFFMAN D POOLEY (US)	70 D J RUSSELL J HAAS (US) D FROST (SA) B TWAY (US) R CHARLES (NZ) A DEAN (Zim) N FALDO	71 J NICKLAUS (US) M MCMURDER (US) M LANNAN (Swe) C MESHAI (Japan) P PARRY (Aus) M PIERRO (Sp) J MILLER (US) T KITE (US) J BENEPE (US) A NASH M SMITH (US) C MASON A CHANDLER K BROWN J RIVERO (Sp) L TREVINO (US) O O'CONNOR Jr M O'MEARA (US)	72 P WALTON G BRUCKNER (US) P FOWLER (Aus) F ZOELLER (US) W RILEY (Aus) E ROMERO (Arg) S VERPLANK (US) G PLAYER (SA) B BRAND Jr C BECK (US) D COMMANIS (US) D A RUSSELL A MAZEE (US) L MAIZE (US)	73 P MITCHELL B MARCHBANK P STEWART (US) R CHAFFMAN M MCNULTY (Zim) B GRENSHAW (US) L NELSON (US) D COMMANIS (US) P BROADHURST T ARMOUR (US) P COULDES (US) J M OLAZABAL (Sp) L WADKINS (US)	74 T FOSTER S TORrance	75 H GREEN (US) C PAVIN (US) CHIN-SHENG HSIEH (Tai) T WATSON (US) J HIGGINS P KEAT R RAFFERTY D COOPER	76 R FLOYD (US) D DURHAM M CALCAVECCHIA (US) M MOLAUND P BAKER I WICKHAM G STAFFORD T JOHNSTONE (Zim) P MOWHINNEY (Aus) I BAKER-FINCH (Aus) R DAVIS (Aus)	77 P CARMAN J WHITE J M CARIZARES (Sp) L TINKLER (Aus) J COOK	78 C TUCKER M REID (US) B LANE E DARGY CHEN-SOON LU (Tai) J MORGAN	79 M PERSSON (Swe) A FORSBERG (Swe) D GALLAGHER (Aus) O SELLBERG (Swe) J CABO (Sp) T WIESEN (Zim) H BAIOCCI (SA) E SNEED (US) C STRANGE (US)	80 R MACKAY (Aus) D LOVE (US) G FURRY S PATE (US) N BURKS D ARMSTRONG (Aus) N HANSEN A JACKLIN	81 L MAHN D WHELAN W SMITH (Aus) C MOODY	82 R RICHARDSON (SA) A ROGERS	83 M ALLEN (US) A MCLOSKEY denotes amateur.
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SPORT IN BRIEF

Place for Beardmore

Mal Reilly, the Great Britain coach, recalled Kevin Beardmore for Sunday's Rugby League international against New Zealand in Christchurch. The winner of the match plays Australia in the World Cup final later this year.

Beardmore, an experienced hooker, replaces Paul Hulme, the utility forward who played at hooker in the third international against Australia in Sydney last weekend. Another casualty, Hugh Weddell, the prop, is likely to be fit after a sustaining a thigh injury in the provincial match against Wellington yesterday, which Britain won 24-18.

Dutch equals

Australia drew 2-2 with The Netherlands in a men's hockey international at Derwin yesterday. Australia, top seeds for the Olympics, led twice, through Deane and Charlesworth, but Kraize equalized for the Dutch both times.



Devoy: match for the general

Quite a coup

Susan Devoy, the world women's squash champion, has agreed to play Brigadier General Stiveni Rebuka, the leader of Fiji following his two coups last year, in an exhibition match. She arrived in Fiji for a tournament over the weekend, but has also arranged a number of exhibition matches. Local groups have objected to the match, but Devoy said she looked forward to the match.

Sterling award

Peter Sterling, the Australian half back, and Hugh McGahan, the New Zealand forward, shared the annual Golden Boot award for the best Rugby League player in the world. Britain's nominees were Ellery Hanley, Steve Hampton, Kevin Ward and Gary Schofield.

Mecir defeat

Miloslav Mecir, the Wimbledon semi-finalist, was beaten in the third round of the Stuttgart grand prix tennis tournament yesterday. The No. 1 seed went out 6-4, 7-6, to Thomas Muster, of Austria.

Johnson goes

Ben Johnson, the 100m world record-holder, will be in Canada's team facing Italy and Cuba in an international meeting in Cesanatico, Italy. Carl Lewis, the American sprinter, will not be taking part.

A giant arises to false dawn

By John Hennessy

What's this? The grandstand behind the first green at Lytham crowded to overflowing at 7.45 a.m.? There had to be a reason for such a phenomenon, and there was. A gentleman called Jack Nicklaus.

The great man had not been submitted to such an indignity before, but there was no escaping it. The intrusive eye of television had recorded the draw, so there had been no chance, as an R and A official explained at the time, "to throw it back."

If those last two words speak of minor misadventures in the past, few people would begrudge any preferential treatment given to a man recently awarded the accolade, with good reason, of "Golf of the Century," in the United States.

The fortune of those spectators in the first stand under a grey, threatening sky was immediately rewarded when Nicklaus hit his five-iron first shot downwind, pin-high, to 10 feet — the hole measures 296 yards — and boled the putt.

Alas, it was a false dawn, or near-dawn. He had spent most of the night in the infirmary with a stomach upset and had thought, at 6.30, that he would have to withdraw.

At 48, you need all the help you can get rather than a severe case of Sessile Lady's Revenge. He said afterwards: "The way I felt, I expected to shoot 95 rather than the 75 I got."

It began to look that way when he took three putts on the second and had to play his bunker shot at the third, but he showed great fighting ability to reach the turn in 36, still only one over par.

Once more he was in a bunker and three times he drove into rough on the right. But his shoulders shrugged more conspicuously with his inability to steal shot than the two long holes. He shook his head despairingly after a poor chip on the sixth (549 yards) and turned his back on the tee-shot at the seventh (549 yards downwind).

His nerves might have been settled by pars at the ninth and

Those who suffered included Jack Nicklaus, although his 75 probably reflected the par on a day when the sun did not descend to appear until 6 p.m. and then only briefly, and Ray Floyd, Mark Calcavecchia and Ian Woosnam, each of whom took 76. Barry Lane laboured to a 78.

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